Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-097
Monday
20 May 1991

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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh Views Peace Conference, Other Issues

JN1705152991 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic
18 May 91 p 8

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, chief of the PLO Information Department, by the Palestinian affairs editor; place, date not given]

[Text] [SHIHAN] What did you and Minister Bessmertnykh talk about? Did you agree on anything specific in your meeting?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The basic point we conveyed to the Soviet minister is that the PLO adheres to two main tenets: First, Palestinian representation, meaning the PLO's right to form a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories, so as to embody the unity of the people and their cause. As for the idea of confining representation to elements from inside the occupied territories, it means removing the right of a large number of Palestinians who were forced by the circumstances of occupation to live outside their homeland—given that this right to repatriation was guaranteed by the UN resolutions in 1949. The second issue relates to the basis of negotiations at the projected conference. We cannot accept Shamir's proposals to be the basis—given that these proposals confine discussions to Palestinian figures from inside the territories, within the framework of self- rule and retention of Israeli sovereignty over the land.

The Soviet side has demonstrated full understanding of and support for this Palestinian position, to the point where the Soviet foreign minister stated that he could not imagine a peace conference without the participation of the PLO.

Despite this stance, the USSR assumes special responsibility, since it is the source of Jewish emigration, to stop settlement activity. We do not think that Israel should be allowed to blackmail the USSR, which is a superpower, and set preconditions for its participation in the peace conference. The opposite should happen. Moscow should halt emigration until Israel pledges to stop settlement and withdraw from Palestinian territories.

[SHIHAN] Why have you rejected a joint delegation with Jordan?

['Abd-Rabbuh] What is being discussed now by some quarters regarding the joint delegation is an attempt to put the cart before the horse once again. Some parties have tried to portray this issue as the stumbling block to peace and settlement. Our relationship with Jordan is not the obstacle to the solution. This relationship has matured greatly following the disengagement between Jordan and the PLO. Consequently, there is a chance to promote a joint future between the two countries and peoples on democratic foundations. Therefore, what has been proved sound by recent history should not be revoked or relegated to a formula that we transcended because it was rife with contradictions and did not serve the course of joint action and struggle.

The main point we have agreed on with the brothers in Jordan centers on the need to shore up independent Palestinian representation at the conference as a condition for its success in reaching a just solution to the Palestine question that ensures the Palestinian people's right to independence and self-determination.

[SHIHAN] How do you react to Israel's obduracy, and how do you think the Americans will react?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Israel's apparent rejection of certain U.S. ideas is nothing but a ruse, especially given that Israel takes exception to the conference's terms of reference as well as to the U.S. proposal that it convene every six months. The Israelis are taking a hard line on this point and on European participation as bargaining chips in the future to gain Arab concessions on substantive issues like international legitimacy and Palestinian representation. This is the bottom line of the Israeli game. Baker, rather than pressure Israel to accommodate the ideas put forward by us and other Arab partners and endorsed by the international community, has been pressing the Arabs to meet Israel's conditions. There is an attempt to fudge on the authority of the conference. For instance, there is an attempt to leave the interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which explicitly calls for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, to negotiators at the conference table and thereby make it nonbinding. Israel would thus be in a position to impose a fait accompli and continue the occupation of Arab land. The conference would then become a lopsided parley whose course would be steered by Israel.

This is why we issued our call for a five-sided Arab meeting to coordinate Arab policies, lay down foundations, and draw red lines not to be crossed by any Arab party.

[SHIHAN] How would you characterize intra-Arab relations before the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo? Do you think there is a conciliatory mood?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Sadly, the atmosphere is less than encouraging. The unilateral action by the Gulf states declaring their willingness to take part in a peace conference amounts to the gratuitous forfeiture of a trump card for the Israelis. There might have been advance coordination with other Arabs on that point. This Gulf gesture will whet Israel's appetite for further demands—namely, normal relations with the Arabs and an immediate end to the boycott of Israel—independent of a settlement of the problem. This is the first step down the road of Baker's strategy to pursue a normalization of ties between Israel and the Arabs as an issue unrelated to a settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Bessmertnykh-'Arafat Meeting, U.S. Policy Viewed

NC1805104291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] London, 18 May (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab says that Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh told Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at their recent meeting in Geneva that all parties, including the United States and Israel, have accepted the idea of a peace conference based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Al-Najjab, who attended the Bessmertnykh-'Arafat meeting, adds: Despite this, Israel is insisting that that the United Nations not participate in the conference and that the conference be limited to one formal session followed by bilateral meetings.

In an interview with the London-based Saudi paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Najjab says that the U.S. Administration is trying to sidestep an international conference and the implementation of the UN resolutions. It is also trying to bargain with Israel over the conference's form, weakening its legal basis and reducing the UN role, thereby making the UN presence during the negotiations a mere formality.

Regarding the Israeli and U.S. positions on Palestinian representation in the peace conference, al-Najjab said: The United States still refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination and to deal with the PLO. This is identical to the Israeli position, even though both countries know they will not be able to find an alternative Palestinian delegation to take part in the process to normalize Arab-Israeli ties.

Islamic Jihad Claims Jerusalem Stabbings

NC1805064291 Paris AFP in English 0613 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Beirut, May 18 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad in Palestine movement late Friday claimed responsibility for the stabbing and wounding by a 21-year-old Palestinian of three Israelis in Jerusalem.

In a statement released here, the fundamentalist group said one of its members carried out "this heroic operation to take revenge upon the usurping enemy...and to confirm the choice of the revolution of knives, triggered by the Islamic Jihad movement."

On Friday, the unidentified Palestinian man shouting "Allah Akbar" (God is great) stabbed and wounded two Israeli men and a woman in East Jerusalem.

"By announcing our responsibility, at a time when the Americans are trying to carry out their plot aimed at liquidating our sacred cause and to wipe out the identity of our Moslem people, we reaffirm our choice to bolster the intifadah (uprising) and the revolution by all means."

Jibril, Iranian Legislators View Political Issues

JN1805171491 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]; Fadl Shururu, PFLP-GC Political Bureau secretary; and a number of PFLP-GC Central Committee members have received Iranian Majlis members led by Ahmad 'Azizi. Mr. Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and Mr. Shari'ati, cultural adviser at the Iranian cultural legation in Damascus, attended.

The conferees discussed current political conditions and developments pertaining to the course of a settlement in the Middle East. The conferees noted the need to bolster the blessed intifadah in Palestine as a revolutionary and militant response to the whole major world conspiracy. The meeting also discussed the conference scheduled to convene in Iran to support and back the Palestinian people's national struggle, particularly the struggle of the blessed intifadah.

Algeria

Hamrouche on Democracy, Reforms, Ties With France

LD1805132891 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche, head of government, has given an interview to the French newspaper LE MONDE, which was published on Thursday, asserting that the real dialogue is to ascertain whether Algeria has really reached a level of political maturity that might allow it to launch its second revolution: a revolution for democracy through which citizens will play an effective role, through the political parties, and in the economic and social life. This is the main question.

Therefore, the matter is not about Islam and secularism, between those in power and those seeking it, or between conservatives and reformers. We are convinced, however, that our people have reached a stage that enables them to choose between two programs, two policies, and two theories, and allows them to evaluate and pass judgement on them. That is the bet.

Discussions are being held today as if there were really various parties and various programs at a time when all Algerians know that there is only one program: our program, the program of reforms.

It was difficult because the National Liberation Front [FLN] has in its ranks an abundance of good cadres and capabilities. There were around 18,000 nominees, all of whom were good. Wherever renewal has succeeded and wherever the FLN has opened its doors to the whole of the civil society, however, we have not had any difficulty in sorting things out. First, all democracies are based on these adjustments, which cannot be purely arithmetical. Second, we have to take into consideration the reality of the country, its vast area, and the differences that exist between northern Algeria and the south. Despite all that, we may indeed have a large number of deputies.

We will also have to take into consideration our country's social realities and their weight. We must not forget that the number of women who do not vote is large whatever more we do about it. The electoral law does not mention a deputization to be granted to a husband, but to either of the partners. A wife may also vote for her husband.

On reforms he said: "Thus, if time is wasted when reform is embarked upon, this helps those opposed to reform to mobilize their ranks. Thanks to its consolidation with the force of this principle, we thought of the need to embark on reforms on the whole front: in the establishment, the social sector, the university, and for every individual in society to feel that he is concerned with these reforms. This way comprehensive dynamism in all sectors of society is triggered."

As to youth, he explained that the urgent matter is integrating them in active life. The other problem is housing (?which requires) a new treatment totally different from the treatment accorded it up to now. We will also continue the reforms aimed at purging the economy. The tools are there and this will be like the role of general comptroller. The third problem is debts. Negotiations on the reduction of external pressures on the balance of payments must continue. These are the three axes.

Concerning Algerian-French relations Mr. Hamrouche pointed out: Whenever an examination of the relations between Algeria and France is being made, however—and they have been examined with a great deal of pragmatism—the strange thing is that there has been no reply from the French side. Meetings, talks, and apparent agreements have taken place but matters have not been finalized. I have a feeling that the one on the other side of the Mediterranean has adopted a wait-and-see stance. It is possible, however, that there is an attempt to establish in France the idea that relations between France and Algeria have deteriorated following France's involvement in the Gulf war and Algeria's unhappiness about it—as if matters before the war had been going well. As far as I am concerned, I think matters have not been going satisfactorily since 1988. The Gulf war had no effect on relations between Algeria and France.

Regarding the nuclear reactors he said: "What worries me is the determination of developed countries to prevent other nations from being developed one day. I do not necessarily mean here by development the military aspect. It is possible that we can be economically, socially, and culturally developed without acquiring the atomic bmb. This is my opinion and it is the opinion of all decisionmakers in Algeria."

Thus, when we decided to build this reactor we also set up the Higher Authority for Renewable Energies and built a campus for scientists in N'sala near the reactor.

Morocco's King Hassan To Visit Algeria 'Soon'

LD1805133691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] The Moroccan sovereign will be in Algeria soon. The news item was issued by AFP and was not confirmed or denied by the Algerian authorities to the national radio in a contact with responsible sources this morning. AFP reported the news quoting Moroccan authorities, which announced the visit officially yesterday on the occasion of the visit of King Hassan II to the town of Smara in Western Sahara. The agency says the visit of the Moroccan king to Algeria will take place during next week and he will hold a bilateral summit meeting in the city of Oran.

The French source—which has not received confirmation from the Algerian authorities—says that it has learned from well-informed sources in Algeria that the talks between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II will cover bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab Maghreb. It is possible that the two sides will review the issue of Western Sahara, weeks before the

start of the implementation of the UN peace plan stipulating the organization of a referendum for the self-determination of the Sahrawi [Saharan] people.

PRC Denies Helping Manufacture Atomic Bomb

LD1905195991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The Chinese president has denied accusations that his country is helping Algeria manufacture an atomic bomb. He described these accusations as false and fabricated.

It is known that Algeria has already denied allegations circulated by British and U.S. newspapers that China is now helping Algeria build a nuclear reactor which, in a few years, will be able to make a nuclear bomb.

Egypt

Mubarak, Delegation Return From European Tour

NC1905184491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation returned home this evening following a tour during which he visited Italy, Luxembourg, France, Turkey, Syria, and Libya.

Mubarak Comments on Peace Conference, Gulf War

NC1905180091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Rome, 19 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak underlined the need to hold a peace conference to resolve all Middle East problems. He said the United States, the Soviet Union, the EC, and the United Nations should participate in the effort. Mubarak said it is unimportant whether the conference is called a regional or international one. What is very important, he stressed, is that the conference open the peace process so the participating countries can be confident that we are beginning on the right path.

President Mubarak expressed Egypt's willingness to organize the conference. He said: We are ready to help and ready to be very active with all the parties in order to achieve peace. He added: Even after the conclusion of such a conference, we will be a long way from reaching true peace.

President Mubarak reiterated: The important thing is to agree to hold the conference and to its basis so that negotiations can be undertaken to reach a just solution to the problem. I believe that without an Israeli agreement on the land-for-peace principle the negotiations will lead us to the unknown.

President Mubarak was interviewed by the Italian television station Tele Monte Carlo. The interview will be broadcast tonight.

President Mubarak said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is doing all he can and is carrying out a splendid effort but the ball is now in the Israeli court. He added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir must change his stand and agree to the land- for-peace principle, a principle President George Bush has repeatedly mentioned. Mubarak said: Shamir must not create problems on the question of Palestinian representation. We are ready to help but he should not be intransigent on these points; there must be some flexibility.

President Mubarak stressed that "it is impossible to talk about peace without land. There must be land because the problem concerns the land. One cannot say no land in return for peace because this would not be peace." He added: After the conference, we must reach a point when Syria can negotiate with Israel about the Golan and the Jordanians and Palestinians can negotiate with the Israelis. He said: Negotiations will certainly be carried out. They will not negotiate through the radio or mediators. "They must sit down together like we did." He added that there is no other way to solve these issues but by direct negotiations.

Replying to a question about an incident prior to the Gulf invasion when Iraqi President Saddam Husayn stressed to President Mubarak that he would not invade Kuwait, the president said that he went to Iraq on 24 July 1990, that is, one week before the invasion, and asked Saddam directly whether he intended to carry out military operations following the reports about the massing of troops on the Kuwaiti border. Mubarak said Saddam told him that "I have no intention to do that, but they are now frightened. This is enough for me."

President Mubarak added: "We took his word. There are those who insist on saying that he told me that he would not initiate a military action or invasion before meeting the Kuwaitis in Saudi Arabia. This is not true at all. I can confirm this."

Responding to a question about Saddam Husayn and his dreams to be a leader like the late Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, President Mubarak said: First of all, regarding the fact that Saddam wants to be stronger than Nasir, I say that neither Saddam Husayn nor any other person in the Arab world could be stronger than Jamal 'Abd-al- Nasir. Saddam cannot even reach the standard of 'Abd-al-Nasir.

President Mubarak added: Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was a well-known world leader. Saddam could never do even half of what 'Abd-al-Nasir did. Under no circumstances should we equate Saddam with 'Abd-al- Nasir. Nasir was different. He was born to be a leader and he did not become a leader by the use of force. Furthermore, 'Abd-al-Nasir liberated his country from occupation. There is absolutely no comparison between the two.

President Mubarak expressed his conviction that what happened after Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait should serve as an eloquent and harsh lesson not only to Saddam but to any person who would ever think of

invading another country. He expressed profound regret for what happened to the Iraqi people and the harm inflicted on them.

In his interview, President Mubarak said: I appealed to Saddam 32 times to make him respond to the peace call and to withdraw from Kuwait or else, I told him, we will face huge problems. But he did not heed my warning because he thought he was strong, that all people would listen to him, and that there would be no war.

President Mubarak said Saddam Husayn should have assessed the situation when George Bush said he would liberate Kuwait, repeated this warning several times, and dispatched well over 450,000 U.S. troops to the region with the world's most advanced and sophisticated war materiel. Saddam Husayn should have appraised the situation on the basis that George Bush would have bet his future if the U.S. troops had returned without liberating Kuwait.

President Mubarak replied to a question on Desert Storm Commander General Schwarzkopf's statement accusing George Bush of preventing him from heading to Baghdad and getting rid of Saddam Husayn this way: We do not interfere in countries' domestic affairs, nor do we wipe out a head of state. "This is something unacceptable anywhere in the world." He described President Bush's stand as wise. He added that "Schwarzkopf is a military man and wanted to finish off Saddam and get rid of everything, but politicians have their own calculations."

Asked if Saddam had used the Palestinian issue to serve his own objectives, President Mubarak said: Saddam told me before the Iraq-Iran war that the only situation under which he would fight the Israelis was if Egypt or Jordan attacked Israel. Saddam also told me that he was aware of Jordan's circumstances and that Egypt had signed a peace treaty with Israel and that he had no intention of attacking Israel. President Mubarak said that Iraq had invaded Kuwait for local consumption.

Regarding PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's position on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, President Mubarak said that 'Arafat committed a grave mistake by supporting the invader because Kuwait has financed and supported the Palestinian problem.

Regarding rumors that 'Arafat must be replaced, President Mubarak said: This is not our affair. It is the affair of the Palestinians themselves. They must choose their leadership and say either yes or no to 'Arafat. He added: We do not have the right to replace 'Arafat because it is not our affair and because it would be interference in the Palestinians' internal affairs.

Replying to a question on Mubarak's current relationship with 'Arafat, President Mubarak said: The relationship now is not good. I will meet him. Asked when the meeting would take place, Mubarak answered: I do not know. I cannot see into the future.

President Mubarak praised the stand of brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the Gulf crisis: Brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is sincere and very honest with me. I discuss the various problems of the region with him and I can say frankly and freely that he is an excellent man when he gets the correct information. He added: I met him and we discussed a number of issues. I am sincere and very honest with him and I discuss with him the various problems of the region. He follows the correct course when he is convinced.

Regarding whether convincing al-Qadhdhafi is an easy matter, the president said: I have convinced al-Qadhdhafi and discussed all the problems with him very frankly. Now you can see that he is a very good man. We must include him in the picture and get the correct information to him and we must be open to him. He is no longer supporting any form of terrorism or financing any movement.

Mubarak on Syrian Role in Peace Process

NC1705102091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Rome, 16 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has underlined the importance of Syria's role in achieving peace in the Middle East. He said: Syria is an extremely important Arab country, and cannot be ignored if we want to move forward in the search for a peaceful settlement in the region.

In an interview broadcast by Italian television tonight, President Mubarak said that Syrian territory in the Golan Heights is under occupation. It is an important Arab country in the peace process and it is impossible to ignore it.

The president expressed his belief that there has been substantial progress in the negotiations to prepare for the peace process, although there are still some points that require clarification. He said that there must be flexibility on both sides.

President Mubarak: There is the principle of territory for peace, but Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir continues to say "no" to this principle. The problem is one of land, and to say no to land means that you do not want peace. We must all make sacrifices if we all want peace. Peace deserves every sacrifice. If the region is to have the peace and stability its countries need to develop, there must be peace, he added.

President Mubarak said the decision to withdraw the Egyptian forces from Kuwait was not a setback for the Damascus Declaration as some believe. He added that the Egyptian forces successfully carried out their mission of liberating Kuwait.

Asked about his meeting in Cairo with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and whether he believes that it is possible to narrow the gap between Israel and Syria on holding the Middle East peace conference, and if he conference could

be held without Syria, President Mubarak said: Syria is an extremely important country in the peace process. We cannot ignore it if we want to move forward in the search for a peaceful Middle East settlement. Syrian territory in the Golan Heights is under occupation, and it is an important Arab country in the peace process. Thus it is impossible to ignore Syria. As for my talks with the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister, I believe there has been substantial progress in the negotiations, although there are still some points that require clarification. There must be flexibility on both sides.

President Mubarak went on to say: There is the principle of territory for peace, to which Mr. Yitzhaq Shamir continues to say "no". We cannot resolve this problem and allow Israel to keep all the territories under its occupation. This is the crux of the whole problem. The issue is one of land, and so to say "no" to land means you do not want peace. We must all make sacrifices if we all want peace. Peace deserves every sacrifice. If the region is to have the peace and stability its countries need to develop, there must be peace. I believe that Secretary of State James Baker has made a good deal of progress, but there are still some points of difference. We are doing all we can and we will talk with our brothers in Syria to look for ways to overcome these differences and to discover whether there is any alternative. But the other side, that is Israel, must also respond. We cannot remain committed to a 40-year-old principle and must move forward. I believe that Israel will be the biggest winner in the region if peace is achieved.

President Husni Mubarak then said: We must understand this. We are speaking with the greatest sincerity. I understand the situation fully and hope it will be possible to resolve differences so the conference can get going. Even if the conference is held, a long road of negotiations and talks lies ahead us before peace is achieved. There will be problems during the negotiations. If the conference gets under way, this does not mean that all problems will have been solved or that everyone is ready for peace. Nevertheless, holding the conference will be a good step on the road to peace.

Asked about the view that the withdrawal of Egyptian forces from Kuwait represented a setback for the idea of creating an Arab force to guarantee security in the Gulf, whether he believes that the Arab unity achieved during the war to liberate Kuwait has collapsed, and what security arrangements he believes are best for the region, President Mubarak told Italian television: Many people believe the decision to withdraw Egyptian forces from Kuwait was a setback for the Damascus Declaration. This is not true because the forces were given the specific task of assisting in the liberation of Kuwait and they successfully completed their mission. When all the details surrounding the Damascus Declaration have been worked out, then we will know the volume of the forces needed there and will start implementation. As for these forces' withdrawal, they have completed their mission and must return, like the other forces that formed the alliance. We will send forces as soon as all the details surrounding the Damascus Declaration are finalized and in accordance with the agreement's requirements.

Asked whether Europe, and Italy in particular, can play a role in establishing a lasting peace in the Middle East, what he thinks of the idea of holding a conference on security and cooperation for the Mediterranean basin countries, and how he sees relations between Egypt and the EC, particularly Italy, President Mubarak said: Relations with Italy are extremely important. These are not new, they began a long time ago at the beginning of the century or perhaps before then. I believe that relations between our two countries are proceeding in the best possible manner.

Cooperation among countries in the Mediterranean basin has been discussed with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis. We are in favor of this and are still discussing this issue, he added.

On the EC's role in the peace process, he said: I believe the EC's role is an extremely important and we need it. Europe is very close to the Middle East. President Mubarak went on to say that Europe will be affected by any instability in the Middle East, and it will benefit from stability in this region. Therefore, I believe that stability in the Middle East is extremely important for Europe. The opposite also applies, because Europe is very important for us. In addition, the Europeans, better than other countries, understand the mentality in this part of the world. This supports our belief that Europe is extremely important for us. Italy is certainly the preferred country in Europe. It is a very close and very cooperative friend. Its participation in the peace process is important.

Asked to comment on the agreement reached by the two countries' information organs, President Mubarak said: This agreement is very good, but its signing came late. Television transmission in Egypt began in the 1960's, and the agreement should have been signed in the 1970's, and not after so much time had elapsed. This agreement will benefit us, and is very important that both countries are able to see what each is transmitting.

Second Group of Troops Departs Kuwait for Home

NC1905184691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1807 GMT 19 May 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 19 May (MENA)—The second group of Egyptian troops left the Kuwaiti port of al-Shu'aybah this evening on board the ferryboat al-Dammam on their way back home in accordance with the orders of President Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Egyptian Armed Forces, after fulfilling their mission. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Ambassador in Kuwait Amin Nimr said in a speech at a farewell ceremony that the Egyptian Armed Forces in Kuwait will return home within three months. He said that the Egyptian forces have fulfilled their mission, which was to take part in the liberation of Kuwait.

Major General Khalid al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy chief of staff, extended thanks and salutations to President

Mubarak and to the Egyptian Government and people. He described the Egyptian Armed Forces as the forces of the Arabs and the forces of the crossing. [reference to the Suez Canal crossing during the 1973 war] [passage omitted]

Mubarak Appoints New Ministers, Chief of Staff

NC2005095891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued Presidential Decree No. 190 for the year 1991:

Dr. Butrus Butrus Ghali is appointed deputy prime minister for foreign liaison and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad affairs.

Lieutenant General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi Sulayman is appointed minister of defense.

'Amr Muhammad Musa is appointed foreign minister.

Dr. Mahmud Sayyid Ahmad Sharif is appointed minister of local administration.

Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din is appointed minister of education.

Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has also issued Presidential Decree No. 191 for the year 1991, providing for the appointment of Lieutenant General Salah Muhammad 'Atiyah Halabi as chief of staff of the Armed Forces, effective 20 May 1991.

AL-AHRAM Fears U.S. 'Backpedaling' on Israel

NC1805111191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0718 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM says that there are fears that the U.S. eagerness to achieve some measure of progress in Secretary of State James Baker's talks in the region may lead to concessions in Israel's favor.

In an editorial entitled "U.S. Backpedaling," the newspaper says that Washington began its efforts in the region with a clear commitment to two principles: an exchange of land for peace and the need to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to resolve the region's problems. However, faced with the possibility that the preliminary talks may be deadlocked by Israel's intransigence, the United States began floating new ideas to soften Israel's position.

AL-AHRAM adds: The United States began talking about the regional conference Israel prefers instead of the original idea of an international conference. Israel insists that the conference be a mere procedural formality. The United States also made attempts to include the Gulf countries in the negotiations; the reason for this is that Israel wants to end the Arab boycott against it.

The paper says that the latest U.S. proposal was for a conference to be held with the participation of several frontline countries, excluding Syria, to discuss the issue of water resources, which is of primary importance to Israel, after which the conference could be expanded to tackle other issues.

The newspaper says that these developments may explain the toughening of Syria's position and its insistence that the international conference be held and that it continue its activities during any negotiations.

Libya

Reportage on Talks Between Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi

Mubarak Arrives 19 May

LD1905163191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 May 91

[Excerpts] Ra's Lanuf, 19 May (JANA/AMU pool)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived this afternoon in the city of Ra's Lanuf on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. A grand reception was given to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The brother leader of the revolution was at the fore of those greeting him. [passage omitted]

Accompanying President Muhammad Husni Mubarak was an important delegation, including Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, the deputy prime minister and planning minister; Mr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for cabinet affairs and administrative development [title as received]; [words indistinct] minister of international cooperation; Dr. Zakeria Azmi, chief of the Presidential Office; and Dr. Usama el-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the presidential office for political affairs.

The brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak then toured the huge industrial complex at Ra's Lanuf, where they inspected the massive plants within this huge industrial fortress.

[Tripoli JANA in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 19 May, in a Ra's Lanuf-datelined report, notes: "The brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, held a closed meeting this afternoon in the city of Ra's Lanuf."]

Leaders Discuss Security, Unity

JN2005134391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 May 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have told our radio station that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak discussed with Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi during their meeting in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah yesterday the proposals

under discussion to clear the atmosphere among the Arab countries. Al- Qadhdhafi said he is ready to carry out such a role in preparation for holding an Arab summit that will discuss the development of the situation in the Arab arena.

President Mubarak welcomed any effort to reunite Arab ranks. He said that the Arab nation is going through very delicate and complex circumstances and the unity of Arab ranks is essential to safeguard the Arab nation's interests.

The talks also dealt with security arrangements in the region. Al-Qadhdhafi affirmed the need that security arrangements should remain purely an Arab affair. He called on the Gulf countries to issue an explicit and frank statement defining their stand; a stand that should reaffirm the need to have these forces [not further identified] withdraw as they had pledged to do in the past.

The Egyptian president briefed his Libyan counterpart on the efforts to convene a peace conference in the region and emphasised the need that all the parties concerned, including the Palestinian side should participate in any future peace talks. The Libyan leader stressed the need for the participation of all the international parties in the conference and that, if it convenes, the conference should lead to an explicit commitment securing Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

According to the same diplomatic sources, Al-Qadhdhafi criticized the Gulf Cooperation Council countries' announcement that they will participate in the peace talks. He said that such a position raises many questions.

Hold Joint News Conference

LD2005004791 Tripoli Voice of Grater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a joint news conference at which they affirmed the close relations between the single Arab people in the two fraternal countries. They said these relations have never been better than they are today.

They said the Arab situation is very difficult and more effort is needed to restore Arab solidarity.

The brother leader of the revolution was asked his view on what has been said about Libya's still supporting terrorism. He said he objects to this word "still" because this means it had supported terrorism in the past. He affirmed that Libya supports just causes. Libya rejects terrorism, takes a stand against it, and condemns it, because if it is supported we will become a victim of terrorism tomorrow. We have been a victim of terrorism. Therefore, we cannot be supporters of terrorism.

The brother leader of the revolution was asked about his evaluation of the Arab situation, which is full of differences and paradoxes, and he said: The Arab situation is complex and cannot be properly evaluated at the present time. He added that to rely on a foreign power to defend Arab security will be proved futile in time. It is because Arab security is in need of the Arabs' own power. He explained that the homeland is full of powers that do not accept a foreign presence even though there were brothers among them. He said he put forward the Arab confederation project and he hopes that now that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has become the Arab League secretary general the topic will be debated by the league and a political framework will be created. It is not possible that the Arab League Charter remains as it was since it was drawn up during the time of King Faruq and the Imam of Yemen. The time has now come for the charter to be changed in the direction of unity.

The brother leader was asked about Egyptian-Libyan relations. He answered: We are one front and there is nothing that separates the two countries. We are one country and we do not discuss cooperation and coordination. He said that the Libyans and Egyptians are living through a golden period in which they can realize their unity so that they overcome their economic problems. The single people in the two countries should seize the opportunity of the presence of President Mubarak and my presence and take the opportunity and realize unity.

Asked about the possibility of tackling the current Arab situation, the brother leader said that he imagines that if an Arab summit is held, that summit can succeed and can approve the Arab confederation project we put forward. He added that the dispute at the last summit was between Syria and Iraq. I believe Iraq will take part in such a summit if it is convened. It is not important that the Iraqi representation is at the level of president. If there is a problem between Iraq and the Gulf, I think it has ended now.

President Husni Mubarak answered a question about his evaluation of Egyptian-Libyan relations by saying: I am not in disagreement with brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The relations between us are the best ever. Contacts between the two peoples continue and we are proceeding with quiet steps so that the march may not stumble. Egypt and Libya are one country and one people. We find members of the single family in the towns of Egypt and in the towns of Libya.

President Mubarak affirmed that Egyptian-Libyan relations today are better than ever before. President Mubarak was asked whether he discussed with the brother leader the complicated Arab situation. He said: I put brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the picture with regard to the contacts I had undertaken. I agree with him that the situation in the area is not clear. This is a fact. Conditions are not clear.

President Mubarak praised the responsible policy of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Abu-Nidal

NC2005061591 Cairo MENA in English 1917 GMT 19 May 91

[Excerpt] Ra's Lanuf, Libya, May 19 (MENA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, stressed today the close relations between Egypt and Libya, describing these relations as better than ever.

Speaking at a press conference here this evening, the two leaders said the current Arab situation is extremely difficult and further efforts are needed to restore Arab soldiarity.

Asked about reports that Libya is still supporting terrorism, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi expressed rejection of the expression "is still" as it implies that Libya was supporting terrorism because if Libya supported terrorism, it would be a victim of that terrorism tomorrow. "We have been the victims of terrorism and therefore we would not support terrorism", he said.

Asked whether "Abu-Nidal" [Sabri al-Banna] is now in Libya, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said, "Abu-Nidal is not working from Libya and the world has not heard about Abu-Nidal for long years. He is not in Libya and since the first and second Gulf war, Abu-Nidal is no more in Libya".

However, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi noted that there is a point of misunderstanding, namely that a Libyan physician by the name of Abu-Nidal is now in Libya. "This physician who has a daughter named Nidal is responsible for the Red Crescent societies in Libya and cables go out from Libya about the camps of Abu-Nidal but in fact these are camps of the Red Crescent headed by the Libyan physician, Dr Abu-Nidal", Colonel al-Qadhdhafi explained.

Elaborating, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said, "We went to these camps and searched for Abu-Nidal but we found the Libyan Abu-Nidal and not rpt not the renowned Abu-Nidal. [no closing quotation marks as received]

At this point, President Mubarak said that Abu-Nidal is not repeat not in Libya actually. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Departs Tripoli

LD1905174291 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 May 91

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation left Ra's Lanuf this evening after a short visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. A grand official send-off was accorded to President Mubarak. The brother leader of the revolution was at the head of those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Protests Belgian 'Violence'

LD1905200591 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, 19 May (JANA)—The brother secretary of Arab Maghreb affairs today summoned the Belgian charge d'affaires to the Great Jamahiriyah. He conveyed to him the fact that the chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has been following with concern news about the sons of the Arab Maghreb in Europe, in order to safeguard and respect their full rights.

The envoy was handed a letter addresed to the Belgian king from the AMU chairman. It explained that the treatment to which these workers had been exposed in the past days, in the form of force and violence at the hands of the Belgian security forces, is tantamount to an act of persecution and racial discrimination, and tends to inflict great harm to future relations with AMU states.

Tunisia

Fundamentalist 'Plot' To Seize Power Reported

NC1805112591 Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Tunis, May 18 (AFP)—Tunisia has uncovered a plot by Islamic fundamentalists to seize power in a coup set to take place in October, according to a front-page report Saturday in the pro-government daily LA PRESSE.

The paper said the conspiracy masterminded by the illegal fundamentalist organisation Ennahdha, was discovered during an investigation into a series of incidents at universities and schools.

"Disturbances at the university and a string of attacks against schools and universities are part of a chain of events orchestrated by Ennahdha," the paper said.

The aim of this "conspiracy" was to "topple the present regime and change the form of society which Tunisia has chosen for itself", the paper said.

LA PRESSE said the plot had been "drawn up a long time ago with a well-defined plan of action and a timetable fixed months ago by secret groups within Ennahdha".

These groups had at their disposal "militias trained in guerrilla tactics and weapons techniques in camps outside the country", the report said.

The paper said Ennahdha had infiltrated certain sections of the administration and civilian and "non-civilian" organisations with the aim of "undertaking actions of sabotage and terrorism".

In the run-up to the coup, the fundamentalists were planning "a step by step escalation of violence" from distribution of leaflets to street demonstrations and

clashes at universities and schools. The plan was designed to create the impression abroad that Tunisia was "about to explode".

LA PRESSE said several former Tunisian politicians now living abroad had been charged with "amplifying" the destabilisation campaign. It named Mohamed Mzali, who was prime minister under former President Habib Bourguiba, Rached Ghannouchi, the leader of Ennahdha, and Ahmed Ben Salah, who heads an unrecognised opposition party and who recently published a statement in Paris criticising the Tunisian regime.

Among incidents which LA PRESSE said were connected with the coup plot, the paper cited an attack in March against a bureau of the ruling party in which two people were killed, various attacks on police stations and on security and administrative premises in universities.

LA PRESSE said Ennahdha had planned to "go into battle" on June 1 by provoking clashes with security forces, going on from there to create general chaos so as to force the government to launch a crackdown "to protect citizens' property and state institutions".

Violence and unrest were to continue until October when Ennahdha planned to seize power and set up an Islamic republic. The October date was contained in a leaflet distributed all over the country to Ennahdha militants.

Ennahdha Leader Cited on Coup Plot

NC2005055991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Three students were killed and three others wounded during the latest clashes between Muslim students and police in Tunisia. In other reaction to the current situation in Tunisia, Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian Ennahdha Movement, told correspondents yesterday: The Tunisian regime is trying to solve its political and economic problems by accusing others. He stressed: The Tunisian regime is the one that is using force against the people. Tunisian political officials claimed recently that the government had uncovered and neutralized a coup attempt by the principled Ennahdha Movement.

Ben Ali Addresses CDR Meeting

LD1805180791 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1311 GMT 18 May 91

[Speech by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the concluding session of the Constitutional Democratic Rally's, CDR, Central Committee meeting in Tunis on 18 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O militants, men and women:

It gives me pleasure to meet you today on the occasion of the conclusion of the work of the fifth ordinary session of the Central Committee and to congratulate you on the results of your work and on the views and orientations contained in the resulting resolution for embarking on a new important stage in the rally's march and in the life of Tunisia. We embark on this stage through the preparation of the Eighth Five-Year Plan, in order to complete the important steps we have made on the road of change, in light of the 7 November 1987 statement and the directions we drew together at the Rally salvation conference. [applause] [passage omitted]

Today we are approaching major challenges dictated by the transformations witnessed by the world at all levels, in an international climate in which economic blocs are becoming more honed and in which alliances change. This makes it inevitable that we should rely on our own abilities first and search for the most effective means of employing all our energies in in the best manner possible, and to perfect their disposal with the necessary discernment and efficiency.

The Eighth Five-Year Plan, whose lines and orientations you have discussed after all the political, social, and financial sides have contributed to its enrichment, will be a distinguished stage in facing those challenges. [passage omitted]

We have endeavored since the change to establish a new political practice based upon developed political thinking, sincere language, and values of struggle which are derived from our noble heritage. This should be borne in mind whenever there is a change to our structure, so the Rally might continue to be the reform party and the majority party. [applause]

Our planning for the future requires, after completion of the first stage of our political work through reconciliation, renewing the structures and changing the political language and the methods of our partisan work. That is, developing our basic structures so their influence might spread and everyone connected with them might benefit from their effectiveness and their ability to embrace one's preoccupations and to help one to resolve them. [passage omitted]

Strugglers, our concern about improving the means of the Rally's work, and developing its political message in a way that would conform to the requirements of the democratic climate which we have spread since the change [7 November 1987—Bourguiba's removal] and the changes which our society has witnessed at all levels—the concern stems from our ambitions that this party will remain the party of the effective majority in the society. [passage omitted]

The Rally has been and will remain at the forefront of the political forces that defend this society, protect its gains, and block the way in the face of extremism and violence.

I will not let this opportunity pass without saluting with great pride the noble patriotic stances which you have expressed in your final statement, and the enthusiasm and readiness to defend the gains of the homeland against some quarters whose unfortunate choice, the remoteness of their objectives from political work, the duality of their message and stances have prevented them from having a place in the political arena. They have thus resorted to violence and terrorism, and to the execution of a plan aimed at what they call pouncing on power by paralyzing the work of the institutions and infiltrating the state apparatus.

While attacking security and educational institutions, they tried to appear to be the ones to whom injustice has been done. They have not found allies except among those who the country has experience of, and who the country has become certain of the political bankruptcy of, after they nearly led it into a deep abyss.

While praising before you the decisive stance taken by the Rally's strugglers, I would like to (?warn) [words indistinct] political parties, and all organizations and societies about the threat of these ambitions to the country's security, stability, and impregnability, and to make them aware that the republican institutions and the nature of the state itself are the targets. I would like to salute the honorable patriotic stances of these parties and organizations, and their confrontation of these schemes. We consider that to be carrying out their duty in protecting democracy.

Party members, men and women, our party and political action is an instrument for the achivement of development in its most comprehensive sense. If political action is conditional upon its results, the way of its achievement and its practice are not less important than results. For this reason, we have chosen since 7 November, in our efforts for reform and change, the method of reconciliation, dialogue and consultation inside the rally and between the civil institutions and in the state's structures. For this reason also, we have believed that guaranteeing human rights is among the conditions for achieving development and among the first of these rights are work, housing, health, and education. [applause]

We do not think that there is anyone who does not know that putting aside these aims and attempting to divert efforts from them can delay their achievement or their completion as soon as possible, especially if these attempts are coupled with the challenges which are faced by [word indistinct] of the country and which are intended to exploit them.

I assure everyone of the soundness of the march and the determination of the state and its readiness to face these attempts with all firmness in accordance with the requirements of law and justice. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Government Thanks Arabs, EC for Support, Aid

LD1905174191 London KUNA in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 May 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 May (KUNA)—Kuwait today reiterated its deep thanks and appreciation to the leaders and peoples of the fraternal Arab states who stood by Kuwait during the ordeal of the Iraqi occupation, hosted the Kuwaitis, and offered them care, assistance and support.

Kuwait expressed its satisfaction with the election of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid as Arab League secretary general, who was unanimously chosen given the status and the wide political experience he enjoys on the Arab and international levels.

The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers, at its weekly meeting held here today, expressed its great appreciation for the decisive and positive stance adopted by the member states of the European Community in supporting Kuwait. It affirmed the importance of their role in supporting the efforts aimed at boosting the peace process and consolidating the pillars of security and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Turkish Minister Concludes Visit

TA1905114391 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] State Minister Isin Celebi and the delegation accompanying him, currently on a tour of the Gulf countries to promote cooperation, left Kuwait for Qatar. According to an ANATOLIA report, Celebi met in Kuwait with Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, as well as Commerce and Industry Minister 'Abdallah Hasan al-Jarallah and Public Works Minister 'Abdallah Yusuf al-Qutami.

Speaking during a news conference, Celebi declared that his talks were very constructive and that Kuwaiti officials indicated that they would buy necessary goods from Turkey whenever possible. Celebi added that cold storage facilities will be provided in Kuwait for Turkish export goods and that the Kuwaitis are interested in cooperation in the fields of contracting, tourism, and water supply.

Celebi noted that the Kuwaiti officials promised to fulfill this year their commitment to a grant of $1.1 billion to Turkey. Celebi also noted that the joint economic committee meetings between the two countries will be held in the fall.

The Kuwaiti commerce and industry ministry will visit Turkey this summer.

Defense Minister on Security, Force Deployment

LD1705143591 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah said in an interview published today in the newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAIT that security arrangements are being made to prevent a repeat of the catastrophe of Kuwait's occupation by the Iraqi regime. He told the international newspaper that his tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states was aimed at explaining the question of Kuwait's security in the face of Iraqi threats and the possibility of Gulf cooperation in this respect.

He added that all the states he visited expressed their readiness to establish constructive cooperation and their anxiety to preserve Kuwait's security and the security of the Gulf as a whole. They also demonstrated their readiness to respond to all the requests made by Kuwait in this respect.

Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah revealed that a comprehensive and broad agreement would be reached on the security of the Gulf as a whole and that other visits to several states would follow his tour of the GCC states. In this respect, he pointed out that work is being done in order to implement the Damascus declaration which constitutes the main axis of his visits.

Regarding the withdrawal of foreign troops, the defense minister said that all the troops have begun withdrawing from Kuwait, but these troops will be asked again to take part in a force which will include troops from the GCC states, Egypt, and Syria, in addition to troops from other friendly states. This joint force is expected to deploy in Kuwait shortly.

As regards the U.S. troops in particular, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al- Salim al-Sabah said that 90 percent of these troops have effectively withdrawn from Kuwait. This operation, expected to take two months, began last month and will end next month.

Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah also talked about the visit of his British counterpart to Kuwait in the next few days [as heard]. He said that it is expected that the question of security arrangements in the Gulf region will be discussed during this visit.

Oil Minister Cited on Resumption of Oil Production

LD1705140191 London KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 17 May (KUNA)—Oil minister, Dr. Hamud Abdullah al-Ruqbah, has stressed that is is not possible now to give a date for the resumption of the production and export of Kuwaiti oil to world oil markets due to the grave damage caused by the destruction of Kuwaiti oil installations by Iraqi forces before their withdrawal.

In a statement to the Bahraini paper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, published today, he said that at the next

meeting of the GCC oil ministers, Kuwait will submit a request to the member countries to meet the needs of the world oil markets by making up for Kuwait's quota according to the rulings of the agreements signed in this respect by the member countries. [passage omitted]

Assistance Society Aids Palestinians, Arabs

LD1705140891 London KUNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpt] London, 17 May (KUNA)—Despite foreign campaigns that spread rumors about the mistreatment of the Palestinian and other Arabs in Kuwait, a Kuwaiti voluntary society is providing services to all Arab families in Kuwait which have suffered as a result of the unjust Iraqi occupation.

The services of the Kuwaiti Society for the Defense of War Victims, based in Kuwait, are not confined to Kuwaiti families; they are extended to Arab and non-Arab communities, particularly the Palestinian community, without discrimination. Foreign media is claiming that the Palestinian community, estimated at 200,000, has been mistreated by Kuwaiti citizens since the liberation of Kuwait.

The popular initiative comes as a reply to all the rumors which have been spread by media channels that lack integrity to harm the Kuwaiti people. During a visit to the temporary premises of the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY in London, Badriyah Adasani and Hayfa' al-Mihna, members of the Kuwaiti Society for the Defense of War Victims, said that the society was providing help to Palestinian familes and coordinating visits to enable them to see their relatives who have been detained on charges of collaborating with the Iraqi authorities.

Hayfa' al-Mihna said that the society was also trying to contact Palestinian families to inform them of the whereabouts of their relatives to facilitate contacts with and visits to them.

Hayfa' al-Mihna said that the society is providing clothes, food, and homes for the needy of "al-Bidun" who are living in Kuwait. Society member Badriyah Adasani said that among the activities of the society was to inform the relatives of those of the al-Bidun category who are imprisoned by contacting them in or outside Kuwait. [passage omitted:]

Foreign Residents' Registration Deadline Expires

LD1805091791 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Shaykh Ahmad Lahmud al-Jabir, the interior minister, has declared that yesterday was the end of the deadline for registration of foreign residents in Kuwait. In a statement publishe today by the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ, Shaykh Lahmud said there is no intention of extending the deadline, and he indicated that the period given was sufficient for all residents to register. He added that the law will be applied against all those who do not comply.

It is worth mentioning that the punishment stipulated by the law in this respect includes fines or jail terms.

Military Court Sentences Iraqi Collaborators

LD1905131391 London KUNA in Arabic 1143 GMT 19 May 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait 19 May (KUNA)—Kuwait's military court today passed prison sentences ranging from 3.5 to 15 years and acquittal judgements on a number of those accused of collaborating with the authorities of the Iraqi regime during the occupation of the State of Kuwait last August.

The military court began a hearing at 0900 at the Palace of Justice under Kuwait Judge Jasim Muhammad Bin-Naji to look into the cases of collaborators with the Iraqi regime during its occupation of Kuwait.

The first session was attended by representatives of the International Red Cross Organization, defense attorneys, and representatives from the U.S. and British Embassies in Kuwait, in addition to a large number of correspondents from foreign press, television, and radio.

Twelve cases were heard today; judgement was passed on seven of them, the rest were postponed until next week.

The session was public throughout the proceedings, in line with the norms agreed upon for such trials. However, if the appropriate quarters see something that may contradict these norms, the trial can then take the form of a private trial. This is the prerogative of the prosecutor general or the court.

The sentences handed down by the martial court, be they fines, imprisonment, or other sentences, cannot, under any circumstances, be appealed. However, these sentences do not become final or enforceable until they are endorsed by the authorities that have the power to enforce military law. These authorities always maintain the right to increase the sentence or reduce it, they also have the power to suspend the implementation of the sentence. [passage omitted]

The charges against the accused—11 men and one woman—were possession of weapons during the occupation, assistance to the Iraqi occupation forces, theft, and propaganda for the enemy.

The following are the names of the accused and the sentences passed on the them:
1. Adnan Abbud Hasan Ali—Iraqi, 15 years and deportation.
2. Sabah Hasan Ahmad Shamkhi—Iraqi, 13 years and deportation.
3. Diya' Sabti Jum'a—Iraqi, 12 years and deportation.
4. Abbas Sabti Jum'a—Iraqi, 12 years and deportation.
5. Ahmad Hasan al-Ta'i—Iraqi, 3.5 years and deportation.
6. Jihad Muhammad al-Kilah—Jordanian, five years and deportation.
7. Azzuz Muhammad Azzuz—Egyptian, acquitted.

8. Ata' Abdillah Salih—Jordanian, acquitted.
9. Ghassan Ata Abdallah—Jordanian, acquitted.
10. Isam Ata Abdallah—Jordanian, acquitted.

Qatar

Turkish Minister Arrives for Committee Meeting

JN1805193491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 May 91

[Excerpt] Doha, 18 May (WAKH)—Turkish Minister of State Isin Celebi and his economic delegation arrived in Doha today on a visit to Qatar that will last until Monday [20 May]. The minister will head the Turkish side in the first meeting of the Qatari-Turkish joint committee, scheduled to start tomorrow, Sunday, at the Doha Sheraton Hotel. [passage omitted]

Amir Receives Ozal Message on Security, Ties

JN1905135491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Doha, 19 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

The message was delivered by Turkish Minister of State Isin Celebi when his highness received him today.

QNA reported that the message deals with the situation in the region following the Gulf crisis and the liberation of Kuwait, and with ways to establish security and stability in the region. It also deals with the promotion of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of economy and trade.

The talks during the meeting dealt with the developments in the Gulf and means of developing bilateral relations.

Saudi Arabia

Lebanese Minister Meets King Fahd, Notes Ties

LD1805205991 Riyadh SPA in English 1931 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, May 18, SPA—Lebanese State Minister, Mr. Nazih al-Bizr,i has lauded the constructive efforts being made by custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to serve Arab issues and support them in international forums.

The Lebanese minister, who was speaking in a press statement published today, said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of King Fahd is always defending Arab rights and decisive questions. He particularly mentioned the Kingdom's noble positions over the questions of Palestine, Lebanon, Kuwait and North Africa.

He termed the Saudi/Lebanese bilateral relations as very close and he thanked the Kingdom for its constant support to the Lebanese people and for its efforts to settle the civil war in Lebanon and its leading role in working-out the al-Taif accord.

Prince Khalid Announces New Iraqi Refugee Camp

LD1905081991 Riyadh SPA in English 1943 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, May 18, SPA—Lieutentant General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan, commander of the joint forces, announced here today that another camp for the Iraqi refugees will be set-up at Rafha city within the upcoming ten days and journalist could visit the camp next week.

Prince Khalid told reporters here after he awarded commanders of the Islamic forces the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz medals, that the accommodation of the refugees will continue until after their problems are solved and until they could return home safely and with dignity.

Lieut. Gen. Prince Khalid expressed pride over news that he was awarded British title of Sir in recognition to his efforts during the liberation of Kuwait and said the gesture is also in recognition to the great efforts made by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, as well as the respectable place being enjoyed by the kingdom in international arena.

Prince Khalid said the Iraqi prisoners of war in the kingdom are receiving the best treatment in compliance with the Islamic teachings, international law and Geneva Conventions.

He said talks over the Saudi prisoners of war are going on smoothly as scheduled.

He also expressed satisfaction over the performance of the Saudi forces deployed in Kuwait.

Yemen

Cuban Minister Arrives for Unity Celebrations

JN1905141191 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Cuban Justice Minister Carlos Amat Fores arrived in Sanaa this morning to attend our country's celebrations of the first anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Yemen.

In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', the Cuban minister said he was very happy to attend this important national occasion, and praised the level of ties between the Yemeni and Cuban people.

He was received by brother Engineer Muhsin al-Hamadani, minister of state and head of the Supreme Council for the Protection of the Environment; brother ('Abd-al-Wali al-'Aqil), Planning Ministry undersecretary; and Hector Estrada Acosta, Cuban ambassador in Sanaa.

Saddam Chairs Dahuk Services, Returnees Meeting

JN1805051291 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting that was attended by a number of officials to discuss the latest political developments and the issue of basic services in the Governorate of Dahuk. It appeared that the lack of services was one of the reasons that only a small number of evacuees returned to the city compared with the large number that returned and is returning to other governorates.

President Saddam Husayn gave instructions to take the necessary measures to provide all the basic services to the governorate so as to make available the requirements of living for the citizens in the city and in its outskirts to expedite the return of the evacuees to the city.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council; Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president; Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister; 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, interior minister; Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister; and Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil, defense minister.

Saddam Meets RCC Officials, Defense Minister

JN1805162091 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn this morning chaired a meeting attended by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid; and Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan.

Saddam Husayn Chairs 19 May RCC Meeting

JN1905123891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] this morning. The meeting was attended by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, the RCC members, Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, and Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn also participated in the meeting.

Saddam Chairs Forces General Command Meeting

JN1905205091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2042 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command this evening.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, interior minister; Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of defense; and a number of officials.

Foreign Minister Says Policy To See Changes

JN1805202891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1958 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed that Iraq observes an independent foreign policy in the current international circumstances.

Addressing the National Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee today, he said that Iraq's foreign policy will witness a change in some of its guiding principles in light of prevailing world circumstances, at the level of international and economic relations, and at the level of national, pan-Arab, and regional security. He asserted that Iraq, as an international party, possesses basic principles stemming from its independent will, and that its relationship with the world economic order links it to world activity.

Ministers Brief National Assembly on Recovery

JN1905071391 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] At a session chaired by Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih this evening, the National Assembly hosted the ministers of education, finance, and industry and military industrialization. At the start of the session, Education Minister Hikmat al-Bazzaz responded to questions and inquiries by the assembly members on the future educational policy. The minister [words indistinct] in all scholastic stages in spite of the fact that the educational institutions have sustained large damages and losses estimated at 30 million dinars. [Words indistinct] in responding to the assembly members' questions, the restrictions imposed on withdrawing the citizens' deposits in Iraqi banks will be abolished in the future. These restrictions, he said, came as a result of the difficult financial circumstances from which Iraq is suffering as a result of the siege.

'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister, indicated that all Iraqi governorates have been connected with the national power grid and that work is under way to stablize the electric current and increase the capacity of

the generating stations. He added that the military industrialization cadres are now concentrating efforts on (?developing) the citizens' requirements for essential food and consumer goods and rebuilding the destroyed industrial installations [words indistinct].

National Assembly Reacts to Human Rights Report

JN1905093391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)—The National Assembly has expressed deep regret and grave concern over a decision by the European Council of Ministers on the allegations of "repression and suppression targeting civilians, and serious human rights violations in Iraq" in the aftermath of the Gulf war cease-fire.

In a statement issued today, the assembly affirmed that what happened in Iraq in the wake of the cease-fire was a process of killing marked by chaos and looting carried out by a group of outlaws supported by organized groups which infiltrated into Iraqi territory across the borders. The assembly stressed that the state's response to this was to adopt measures meant to restore the rule of law, keep the peace, and expel those who infiltrated across the borders.

The assembly stated that Iraqi authorities cooperated with all specialized organizations and agencies that are contributing their share to help relief aid reach residents in northern Iraq. It pointed out that security and stability have been reestablished in this region. It added that the state extended the rule of law in all areas in order to protect citizens. This reestablishment of security and stability will also help bring to account anyone who breaks the law and encroaches on the people's rights, the Assembly noted.

The National Assembly strongly denied that any human rights violations were committed in Iraq, referring in this regard to the general amnesty issued for the benefit of all rioters with the exception of those who committed murder, theft, and rape—crimes punishable according to the legal systems of all world states.

The National Assembly pointed out that Iraq accepted UN Security Council Resolution 687 and the subsequent resolutions, despite the fact that they infringe on its national sovereignty. This violation has been corroborated by the positions of the coalition states and their flagrant interference in the internal affairs of a member of the United Nations since 1945, the assembly added.

The assembly expressed satisfaction with the portion of the statement issued by the European Council of Ministers on the need for oil-producing and oil-consuming countries to coordinate their oil policies and on the importance of launching a serious dialogue between the EEC countries and the Arab League member states. Likewise, the assembly supported the notion of convening an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The National Assembly expressed support for the principle of turning the Middle East region into a demilitarized zone and affirmed the need for all countries of the region without exception—including Israel—to be demilitarized. The assembly urged that peoples be given the freedom to exercise their riGHt to self- determination, so that they can express their will on the political, social, and economic systems of government which they deem fit, without direct or indirect foreign interference.

The assembly renewed its demand that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq be lifted in its entirety, because the reasons for the imposition of the blockade have been removed. It also demanded that Iraqi assets frozen abroad be released because, there are no legal justifications to maintain such restrictions. Furthermore, the assembly stated that no party should interfere in Iraq's internal affairs.

Regime Will 'Resist' U.S., UK 'Blackmail'

NC2005131991 Paris AFP in English 1038 GMT 20 May 91

[By Jacques Charmelot]

[Text] Baghdad, May 20 (AFP)—Iraq is determined to resist attempts by U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major to "blackmail" it into ousting President Saddam Husayn, a senior official said in an interview here.

'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashim, higher education minister and Iraq's ambassador to France during the Gulf war, said that the U.S. and British leaders "are blackmailing the Iraqi people and this blackmail should stop.

"The Iraqis will never surrender. They will continue to fight and suffer."

In an interview on Sunday, he said that attempting to change the political system in Iraq was "an illusion."

"Who gave Mr. Bush and Major the right to say loud and clear 'if you don't change your president, the sanctions will continue?'" he asked.

The two leaders have said that unless the political leadership in Iraq changes, the international community will maintain its United Nations-backed sanctions against Baghdad.

"The U.N. Charter is being used in the wrong manner against Iraq. Those (Iraqis) who did not like (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn are behind him now because Bush asked the people of Iraq to kick him out," Mr. al-Hashim said. "This is a question of pride."

He said Iraq wanted to turn a new page in its relations with the rest of the world, notably the West.

"We want to open a new page in cooperation, a new page in our international relations," he said. "What happened is behind us. Let's think about the future."

Iraq's infrastructure and many key industries were severely damaged during the six-week war launched earlier this year to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait, which Baghdad's forces invaded last August.

"We are in a difficult situation but we can handle it," Mr. al-Hashim emphasized. "We will be able to last and we will survive as long as we have to."

The minister said that various countries and companies from around the world, which he did not name, were contacting Iraq to deal with it.

"Time and the potential of Iraq are on our side," he said. "There are some clever people who don't want to lose Iraq in the coming years. Those people are thinking ahead."

Turning to the problem of Kurdish refugees from the country's north fleeing into Iran and Turkey or seeking safe havens set up by U.S.-led allies in that region, Mr. al-Hashim stressed that the matter was "an Iraqi internal affair."

"The Kurdish problem is being used for political purposes against Iraq. Human suffering is being used for political purposes against Iraq by the United States, Great Britain, and France, he said.

"We reject international guarantees in Kurdistan," he added.

He held the United States, Britain, and France responsible for current instability and tensions in northern Iraq, saying they were behind the suffering of the Kurdish people.

"The allies were always there in the north of Iraq to mastermind the activities of the so-called opposition," he charged.

Baghdad To Release 122 Kuwaitis 'Very Soon'

LD1705113891 London KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Geneva, 17 May 1991, (KUNA)—KUNA learned here today that the Iraqi regime is about to release 122 Kuwaiti citizens shortly and that another 3,000 have asked the International Committee of the Red Cross in Baghdad for help to return to Kuwait.

A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross informed KUNA that 122 Kuwaiti former POW's and civilian detainees in Iraq are awaiting release by the Iraqi authorities.

The spokesman, Michel Schroeder, said that these Kuwaiti prisoners will be released very soon. He revealed that 3,000 Kuwaiti citizens in Iraqi jails had contacted the International Committee of the Red Cross and asked it to work to help them return to their country, after the Iraqi authorities had arrested them illegally during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The spokesman explained in his statement that those people, who are not detained, had contacted the committee personally and asked it to help transfer them to Kuwait.

He said that the committee had registered their names and that it is in contact with the competent authorities to arrange their return to Kuwait.

Memo on New U.S. Violations of Airspace 17 May

JN1705202791 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] U.S. warplanes have once again violated Iraqi airspace on missions of reconnaissance and provocation.

Iraq's permanent UN representative addressed a memo to the UN secretary general today informing him that U.S. air activity in the past two days totaled 12 air sorties divided into five formations and two individual sorties.

He added that U.S. aircraft centered their activity over Mosul, Dahuk, and Zakho.

Iraq's permanent UN representative requested that this memo be circulated as a Security Council document.

Report on 16-17 May 'Violation'

JN1805154491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1529 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] New York, 18 May (INA)—Iraq has again protested the violation of Iraqi airspace by U.S. warplanes.

In a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations said that U.S. air activity on 16-17 May totaled three air sorties in a two-plane formation and an individual sortie.

The Iraqi delegate pointed out that the air activity centered over eastern Dahuk. He added that the warplanes flew at a speed of 720 km per hour and that they were on missions of surveillance and harassment.

Iranian Cease-Fire 'Violations' Protested

JN1805160491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1531 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] New York, 18 May (INA)—Iranian troops have again violated the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations stated that an Iranian force estimated to be one platoon in strength pushed into the area of vantage point 426 in the central sector inside Iraqi territory on 4 April.

The Iraqi delegate said that an Iranian patrol consisting of 10 to 15 men infiltrated 6 km into Iraqi territory,

attacked policemen stationed in front of the Kani Sakht police station in the Zurbatiyah area of the central sector, and then withdrew back into Iranian territory.

The permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations declared that these repeated violations confirm Iran's determination and deliberate efforts to infringe upon Iraq's sovereignty and security.

In a related development, Iranian troops have continued to violate the provisions of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

In a similar memorandum to the UN secretary general, the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations noted that an Iranian force estimated to be one infantry company in strength, reinforced by an armored force and armored personnel carriers, was seen in the Ghuzayl area in Iraq's central sector on 14 May. Prints of the tracks made by tanks coming from Iranian territory covering a distance of 2 km inside Iraq were seen in this area.

The Iraqi delegate stated that the Iranians on the same day shelled forward Iraqi troops stationed near the new Qutaybah police station in the central sector, using 81-mm mortars. Three mortar shells fell on the troops. Also on the same day, the Iranians fired one 60-mm mortar shell on the positions of Iraqi troops stationed near the old al-Husayn police station in the aforementioned sector.

The delegate added that the Iranians fired two tank shells in the direction of the Iraqi troops in the village of Fayruz Khan in the central sector on 15 May.

The Iraqi delegate went on to say that these Iranian cease-fire violations undoubtedly confirm the Iranian Government's determination and persistent endeavors to encroach upon Iraq's sovereignty and security. He held the Iranian Government responsible for all the damage caused by these cease-fire violations.

Kurdish Leader Barzani Voices 'Optimism' on Talks

NC1705122991 Paris AFP in English 1138 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, May 17 (AFP)—Mas'ud Barzani, who heads the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) voiced optimism here Friday on chances of reaching an agreement with the Iraqi Government on the future of Kurdistan.

He told reporters at the al-Rashid Hotel, where he is staying: "We have taken important steps" towards an agreement with the Baghdad government.

Mr. Barzani, who has headed a delegation of four Kurdish rebel movements seeking autonomy from the central authorities for the past 10 days, also said that Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) had not come to Baghdad to participate in the second round of discussions, as earlier reported.

Mr. Talabani, who led the first round of negotiations, had reached "an agreement in principle" with Baghdad on autonomy in the region of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Kurdish delegation wants to formalize the agreement with the Iraqi Government.

Mr. Barzani told reporters on Friday that the discussions "were going well," adding that results hammered out to date would be announced Friday or Saturday.

He said the resolution of problems that had accumulated over a 20-year period required time.

Kurdish rebels launched an anti-government rebellion in northern Iraq after the Gulf war ended in February but the insurgency, along with a Shiite revolt in the south, were almost summarily crushed.

The Kurdish delegation here includes members of the PUK, DPK, Kurdish Socialist Party and the Democratic People's Party of Kurdistan.

The Iraqi Government is represented at the talks by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice president of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, parliamentary Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid.

Holds News Conference 18 May

JN1805081391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA)—Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, announced today that the delegation of the Kurdish parties discussed with the government many important issues—democracy, normalization in Kurdistan, autonomy, and national unity. At a news conference in Baghdad today in the presence of many representatives of Iraqi, Arab, and international media, Barzani described the negotiations with the government, which began two weeks ago, as positive. He said that the negotiations with the government will continue. He did not say, however, when an announcement will be made on the agreement between the two sides.

Barzani added in the conference, which is still in session, that with regard to normalization in the Kurdish region, an agreement has been reached on the following major points:

First, general amnesty; second, the return of the Kurds to their cities and villages; third, repealing the extraordinary and emergency laws and regulations; and fourth, opening a university in al-Sulaymaniyah and adopting other educational and cultural steps to develop the Kurdish region.

On laws and reforms related to autonomous rule, Barzani said agreement was reached on a number of essential amendments regarding the autonomous rule law and the powers of its organs.

Barzani noted that the negotiations on democracy dealt with the following six major points: Separating party work from the government; constitutional legitimacy; political and party pluralism; separating judicial, executive, and legislative authorities; holding elections; and the freedom of the press.

He noted that the negotiations are continuing between the two sides to reach a peaceful agreement and final formula. He noted that no final agreement, so far, had been signed.

Barzani expressed hope that an agreement would be reached on the issues on which there is still disagreement.

Mahmud 'Uthman, member of the delegation who took part in the news conference, said in his answer to a question on the city of Karkuk, that serious negotiations are being held on this subject also.

On separating the state from the party, 'Uthman said this means separating the authority of the party from the authority of the government; that is, the party's noninterference in activities coming under the government's jurisdiction. He noted that President Saddam Husayn spoke about this topic on 16 March.

The delegation of the Kurdish parties was told by the government that there will be no retreat on this issue.

Asked if he wants a new constitution or if there is a principled agreement with the government on this point, Mahmud 'Uthman said there are two opinions on this issue. The first one, which is recorded in the draft constitution, says that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] formulates the constitution and that it will be put to a referendum. The second opinion says that the RCC should prepare a law for free elections, and then the Constituent Assembly should study the draft and submit it to a referendum. This proposal was not rejected by the government.

Regarding the discussion of a national unity government, Barzani said: We discussed this subject, but the government rejected the establishment of a coalition government between the Kurdish political parties and the Iraqi Government.

Barzani said: We are optimistic about reaching an agreement at the earliest time.

Regarding international guarantees, Barzani said: At present, I believe that democracy is more important. If there is a new agreement and democracy has been achieved, our people will support it and believe in it. Anyway, we were not a negotiating party on this issue.

Barzani said that both sides are greatly experienced in this issue, and he added that war is not a solution.

Asked about the Kurdish population in Iraq, Barzani said that it would be the purpose of a census to define Kurdish areas and that this is being discussed. No final agreement has been reached on the subject. We hope to reach an agreement; we do not want to go into all the details.

Regarding the Kurdish refugees and whether the resolution of this issue is possible without foreign interference, Barzani said: Signing an agreement with the government will solve this problem without foreign interference and with the continuation of humanitarian aid, which includes food, medicines, and other forms of aid.

Barzani expressed his readiness to remain in Baghdad as long as necessary or until an agreement is reached.

Answering a question on the duration of the negotiations with the government, he said: We need more time to solve all our problems so as not to leave any point unresolved.

Barzani went on to say: The basic point we are negotiating is defining the autonomous region. An agreement in principle has been reached on the other issues.

He added that there are disagreements on defining the autonomous region and which areas it will cover.

Answering a question on disarming the Peshmerga fighters, he said: The Peshmerga will be part of the Iraqi forces and might become part of the internal security forces.

He said: We are part of the Iraqi people and our organization will become part of the Iraqi organizations.

Barzani said that the 11 March 1970 declaration was the basis of all the ideas being discussed.

Barzani said: The autonomous region is an integral part of Iraq.

On the issue of oil, he said: Oil, whether in Karkuk or other areas, belongs to the central government.

Asked about Kurdish refugees who were forced to leave their cities and villages, he said: We called on them to return to Iraq as a first step at least. We want them to return, of course.

Barzani declared that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn was the first to talk of a separation between the party and the government. His excellency the president referred to this in his speech of 16 March.

Barzani noted that the agreement reached in principle is the outcome of the continuing meetings held with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

On the status of the minorities residing in Kurdish areas, Barzani said that the permanent constitution will guarantee the protection of these minorities.

When asked whether the autonomous region constitutes the major problem preventing an agreement, Barzani said: "This is the key point which we are trying to resolve with the government."

Barzani added: "Our views differ on the autonomous region. However, the important thing for me is that there is trust between the government and us; I am quite happy about this."

When queried as to how His Excellency President Saddam Husayn views democracy, he said: His excellency the president has 24 years of experience in government. We believe that this is the best way to serve Iraq, the Ba'th Party, the government, and the Iraqi people. This is the result of long experience.

UN 'Guards' Arrive To Oversee Kurdish Return

JN1805195991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA)—Brent Bernard [name as received], the UN secretary general's special representative in Iraq, has announced the arrival of the first group of UN guards [hurras] to facilitate the return of Kurdish citizens to their places of residence. The arrival of these guards is part of an agreement under negotiation between the United Nations and the Iraqi Government.

He pointed out that the UN secretary general has proposed that the number of UN guards be between 400 and 500 men.

It is worth mentioning that on 18 April, Iraq signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations to coordinate the relief aid given by international agencies with the Iraqi government.

'More Than Half' of Kurdish Refugees Leave Camps

JN1805204291 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Kurdish officials have stressed that more than half of the Kurdish refugees who stayed at camps in southern Turkey have left these camps on their way home to northern Iraq. The officials pointed out that a total of 259,600 people left 10 camps on the border south the two regions of [words indistinct].

PUK Spokesman on Negotiations, Kurds' Return

JN1905184491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 May 91

[Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni dispatch from Tehran]

[Excerpt] While negotiations between Kurdish opposition leader Mas'ud Barzani and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn are under way in Baghdad and on the verge of resulting in complete agreement, there is growing apprehension about the eventual repercussions that the negotiations may have on Iraq or internationally. The Kurdish leaders who reside abroad, despite the optimistic reports they get through the media on the positive progress of the negotiations, still speak with some caution about the achievements of the Baghdad negotiations.

While he corroborates the veracity of radio reports on the progress of the negotiations, Bakr Fattah, spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in Tehran, has told our station that he is surprised at a news agency report that PUK leader Jalal Talabani had arrived in Baghdad. He said: The information we have confirms he has not left his headquarters in Kurdistan since his recent visit from the Iraqi capital. Fattah added: Talabani has no intention of visiting Baghdad in the near future. He said: The negotiations may take a long time, particularly because we are far from obtaining our demands on democracy and on the question of including Karkuk in the autonomous region.

On the future stand of his party as an opposition faction following the Baghdad agreement, he said: No matter what happens, we will remain an indivisible part of the Iraqi opposition and we will not abandon it although we have opted for dialogue with the regime in principle. We will keep our offices abroad and we will not be ungrateful for our neighbors' positions in our regard. We will maintain the historical and solid relations we have with them.

On the return of refugees to Iraq, the spokesman said that they are actually returning in larger numbers but not to the areas where there are Iraqi regime forces. They are returning to areas in Kurdistan that have been liberated, where they will be protected by the guns of the Kurdish Peshmerga until our demand that law and the constitution prevail is fulfilled. [passage omitted]

Dahuk Demonstrators Reject 'Foreign Presence'

JN1905193091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1917 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Dahuk, 19 May (INA)—Iraqis in the Governorate of Dahuk, northern Iraq, have rejected the foreign presence in the area.

At a mass demonstration in the governorate today, part of which was shown on Baghdad television this evening, the demonstrators declared they supported President Saddam Husayn and stood behind his leadership to maintain Iraq's dignity and pride.

Soviet Diplomat Visits Briton Jailed in Baghdad

LD1805104191 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1016 GMT 18 May 91

[By diplomatic correspondent James Hardy]

[Text] A Soviet diplomat was today visiting British businessman Douglas Brand, reported to have been jailed for life in Iraq on spying charges. The official from the Soviet Embassy in Baghdad, which is looking after some British interests in Iraq, was expected to reassure Mr Brand, 51, that everything possible would be done to secure his release.

The government reacted angrily yesterday to reports that Mr Brand had been tried and sentenced without the

knowledge of his family or foreign diplomats. His family and the Foreign Office insist that he is an innocent businessman in no way connected with espionage.

The Soviet diplomat was also taking messages of support and offering what help he could to make Mr Brand as comfortable as possible.

Meanwhile, in London the government was continuing its attempts to receive official confirmation from the Iraqis of both the trial and the sentence. Life imprisonment in Iraq usually means at least 20 years. The main channels of communication between London and Baghdad, through Jordanian representatives in Britain and Soviet UN ambassadors in Geneva and New York, have so far produced little in the way of hard news.

Mr Brand, a former Marine awarded the Military Cross for bravery in Aden, has been imprisoned in Iraq since he was arrested as he was about to leave the country last September. He had been working for the Iraqi Government in the Gulf, clearing mines left over from the war with Iran.

Spokesman Criticizes Syria-Lebanon Treaty

TA2005090091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 May 91 pp 1, 10

[Report by Louis Rapoport, Allison Kaplan, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Damascus's new "brotherhood" treaty with the government of Lebanon is being viewed in Jerusalem as tantamount to the incorporation of the Land of the Cedars into Greater Syria. [passage omitted]

Yosi Olmert, government spokesman, charged last night, "This treaty is tantamount to the actual annexation of Lebanon by Syria. What is happening in Lebanon is completely contradictory to the spirit of our times in which countries are ridding themselves of external yokes, as was the case in Eastern Europe.

"Men of conscience and good faith all over the world should protest vigorously against this flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty," said Olmert, who in addition to serving as director of the Government Press Office, is a leading expert on Syria and Lebanon. "Israel is closely monitoring developments in Lebanon in order to make sure that they do not pose any threat to Israel's security interests." [passage omitted]

Arens Aide on Policy of Raids in Lebanon

TA2005090891 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 May 91 p 2

[Report by military affairs correspondent Dani Sade]

[Excerpt] Israel is closely monitoring the Lebanese Army's activities in southern Lebanon and the various agreements between Syria and Lebanon, as well as the Libyan delivery of over 30 T-55 tanks to the Lebanese Army.

These remarks were made by senior Army figures last night. According to them, "These tanks do not constitute a threat to Israel, but we will have to see what the Lebanese Army intends to do with them. If it attempts to use them against our forces in the security zone or against South Lebanese Army troops, we will have to weigh our reaction."

Following the Air Force raid in south Lebanon on Saturday afternoon, Dani Nave, the defense minister's adviser, said, "Our policy is to continue attacking terrorist targets in Lebanon—as we have all along—as long as the terrorist and Shiite organizations pursue their terrorist activities."

He added, "Despite the various disarmament agreements of the Lebanese militias, the terrorists are carrying on their armed activity from southern Lebanon, and we will therefore continue operating against them as necessary." [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Target Raided Near Tyre

TA1805151191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Air Force planes this afternoon raided terrorist targets northeast of Tyre. The Israeli Army spokesman reports that the targets were destroyed and that all our planes returned safely to base. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reported that the targets had been used as terrorist bases to plan terrorist attacks.

Security sources in Tyre reported that four people had been killed and six wounded in the raid. According to them, one target belonging to the Amal militia was raided in the village of Shabriha near Tyre, and it was destroyed.

SLA Holding 'Extensive Live-Fire Exercises'

TA1705153291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] has closed most of the roads in the security zone's eastern sector to traffic and imposed curfews on several villages as a result of the extensive live-fire exercises the SLA is carrying out in this area. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that, according to Lebanese newspapers, Brigadier General Mikha Tamir, chief of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Liaison Unit With Lebanon, is overseeing the maneuvers.

In an interview with Lebanese electronic media, Gen. Tamir said that Israel does not intend to disband the security zone in the foreseeable future. He asserted that, in the near future, efforts would be invested in reinforcing the SLA and the civilian infrastructure in the security zone.

Four Gaza Fatah Activists Deported to Lebanon

TA1805141891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Four Fatah activists from the Gaza Strip were deported this afternoon to Lebanon. Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that the number of people deported from the territories since the beginning of the intifadah has thus risen to 66, including 29 from Gaza. This morning the Israeli Army imposed curfews on Jabalyah and Bayt Lahiya in the Gaza Strip to preempt riots in the wake of the deportations.

The four were deported after the High Court of Justice rejected their appeal against the Southern Command commander's decision. All the deportees have been imprisoned several times in the past for engaging in and ordering violent actions. Their actions, which were part of Fatah's activities, brought about an increase in the level of violence inside and outside the Gaza Strip. Three of the deportees had been sentenced to long prison terms because of terrorist activities and were released about six years ago in the prisoner swap with Ahmad Jibril's organization.

The deportees are: Jamal Abu-Habal, one of the most prominent Fatah men in the Gaza Strip, Mu'in Musalim, Muhammad Dahlan, and Jamal Abu-al-Jidyan. They were deported to Lebanon this afternoon.

Contents of U.S. 'Paper of Accord' on Talks Noted

TA2005070191 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 May 91 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Washington-based correspondent Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian representatives to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the regional conference will be residents of the territories who will have embraced the two-track approach for negotiations between Israel and each of the Arab countries and between Israel and the Palestinians; in addition, they will have accepted the phased structure of negotiations, which will address self-rule first and the permanent arrangement thereafter.

The above arises from a U.S. paper of accord summing up U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's shuttle tour in the region, which was formulated with Israel's consent. Apparently, the issue of Palestinian representation has been agreed on and finalized.

According to the paper, the participants will be requested to declare their commitment to live in peace with Israel. The United States and the Soviet Union reserve the right to unilaterally convene a conference for the promotion of peace in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Several additional new points emerge from the understandings achieved in Jerusalem during Baker's recent visit:

—The bilateral negotiations will start no later than four days after the opening of the general conference.

—The delegates to the conference will be at the level of ministers or senior government representatives.

—The multilateral negotiations will begin within 14 days of the conference opening; Persian Gulf states representatives will be among the active participants and not mere observers at the conference.

—A two-track parley will be held: multilateral direct talks between Israel and its neighbors, and a multilateral debate to be held by work groups on regional issues, such as regional security, arms control, environmental problems such as water, and the solution of the refugee problem.

The U.S. and Israeli teams further agreed in Jerusalem that the Palestinians will eventually have to elect their delegates by themselves, but this need not be done by the opening session. The participating Palestinians must, however, conform with the aforementioned criteria. This is a broad and nonspecific definition, which does not refer to the inclusion of East Jerusalemites in the delegation (with the purpose of excluding them), but which also leaves many openings. The agreements make no allusion—either positive or negative—to the PLO.

The document of accords contains over 10 clauses reflecting the points on which understanding was achieved in talks with Baker. Two central points remain in dispute: the inclusion of the United Nations as an observer; and an additional convening—with the sides' consent—of the conference. The level of European participation was not finalized either.

Israel has submitted a separate paper to Baker, in which it specifies its concepts on how to bridge the differences on the inclusion of the United Nations and the ongoing nature of the conference.

—The invitations will be sent to Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel. The Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, will dispatch an observer to the opening of the conference. The conference will be launched even if one or more countries turn down the invitation.

—The direct talks between Israel and the joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation will be held in stages, in accordance with the Camp David accords. At first, the talks will focus on establishing self-rule for a transitional five-year period. This stage is to be completed within a year from the day the talks are launched.

—The United States and the USSR understand that no participant, including Israel, will negotiate with "a party that is unable to sit down with it."

—The goal of the peace process is a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; the document contains no reference to the various interpretations of this matter.

Shamir Interviewed on Peace Process

TA1805091591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 18 May 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Golan] Was the good atmosphere of the Baker talks the outcome of what was called a certain Israeli flexibility on those secret understandings that you referred to at the end of the visit?

[Shamir] It is not a question of greater flexibility or a more hardline position. In general, our aim is to advance the process and bring a settlement to the conflict closer. We believe that a settlement is objectively possible, and we all—including the United States—are now convinced that the only way to reach a settlement is the path successfully tried in the Camp David accords.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, what can be done with the two still unsolved problems to which Baker referred, UN participation and the continuation of the conference? How do we proceed despite those two obstacles?

[Shamir] I mentioned, not accidentally, the Camp David accords. As is known, in all the efforts leading up to the Camp David accords there was absolutely no UN participation or involvement. It is a fact that later the signatories to the agreement appealed to the United Nations, but it refused to approve the accords, which up to now do not have the signature or approval of the United Nations. On the issue of the continuation of the conference—well, the process will continue until it ends successfully.

[Golan] In other words, the conference will be able to convene from time to time with the agreement of Israel in order to be updated?

[Shamir] We are not talking about a conference that should continue or should not continue. In general, what is important is not the meeting itself, but the original idea, initiated by the United States four years ago, that the process will start with a meeting in Washington, to which the President of the United States and the president of the USSR will invite all the leaders of the Middle East states, including Israel. The outcome of the meeting will be the start of a process of direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors. That is the idea. It does not refer to any conference, but a meeting which has that as its target. As time passed, there was also talk of whether the meetings could also discuss regional problems shared by the all the states in the region, such as water and ecological problems. That, however, has nothing to do with the matter at hand; it has nothing to do with the political process. There should be, therefore, no talk about greater flexibility. We are interested that this meeting take place, that direct bilateral negotiations begin in its aftermath, and that there be no diversion from that path, from that framework.

We should, of course, not deny that the Arab states, the Arab elements in general, are pulling toward an international conference. They are not great advocates of direct negotiations. We must constantly make sure that the process is conducted within the framework in which we are interested. From time to time there are confrontations over that—sometimes more, sometimes less. We are firm in that position. We do not care whether somebody adds some discussion here or there; the main point is that the main framework be maintained: a meeting for the purpose of conducting direct negotiations. That is the aim of the process and the operation.

[Golan] If I understand you correctly, I believe we can discern a tone that says—and you will perhaps confirm this, Mr. Shamir—that in the meetings on regional problems there will also be a possibility to present some sort of update, and thereby to solve that problem?

[Shamir] There was no talk about that at all. The term update was not brought up at all in the latest talks here. In general, that entire issue was almost not raised. The secretary of state raised the issue of the link with the United Nations, which is hard for him since the Arabs, for obvious reasons, have a positive attitude toward the United Nations, to the same extent that we have a negative attitude toward it. That is all. We have said that Israel has had a very bad history with the United Nations, and whoever cares for himself in Israel distances himself from that organization.

[Golan] Even from a passive observer who will not have the right to address the forum?

[Shamir] It always starts with a passive observer, and then we are asked: Why have a passive observer who cannot talk, who cannot vote, and so on. Things are known and apparent. I will add that it has no significance for the process itself. From an objective viewpoint, it has no effect; it does not add or detract anything. From our viewpoint, it is detrimental. It will affect the efficiency of the process. Besides that, there are many holdups, disturbances, obstacles facing the Arab states that have to participate in such a process. There might be other things that might also disturb us. In such processes, there are always risks, there are chances and risks. All those things are much more important than the issues of the United Nations and the continuation of the conference, which are of minor importance within the general framework.

[Golan] But if the United Nations does not have a part in the conference, there is talk that Syria will also not come.

[Shamir] Syria has its own reasons for not coming, if it so decides. Syria does not want to recognize Israel, does not want direct negotiations with Israel, and demands as a precondition for any discussion with Israel that there be a total Israeli withdrawal from all the areas in which we were not located before the Six-Day War. It has many more dreams, which in our view, will never be fulfilled.

[Golan] Do negotiations with Jordan have a chance? We recall that from 1967 until the upheaval in 1977 when the Likud came to power, Alignment leaders conducted negotiations with King Husayn and he was not prepared even for a territorial compromise.

[Shamir] I believe that Jordan, as a close neighbor of Israel with a very long joint border, should be interested in that process. If it does not take into account other elements in the region, then it should decide to join the process.

[Golan] In the meantime, the Arab knifings continue, and we do not see any quick solution to the problem. We are again witnessing knifings in the heart of Jerusalem.

[Shamir] It is very grave situation. The knifing once again in a main Jerusalem street was a despicable act. To my regret, the perpetrator was captured alive. Such actions hurt me very much. They must be fought, and all measures must be taken to stop them. The problem has no easy solution; it calls for alertness and awareness by all those responsible for security.

[Golan] Perhaps when the peace conference convenes, it will also resolve those problems.

[Shamir] One thing has nothing to do with the other. Nobody can promise that when there is a political process there will be no knifings by incited and criminal people.

Immediate Talks With Palestinians Ready for Launch

TA2005055791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 91 pp A1, 8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, 'Oded Zaray, Ori Nir, and agencies]

[Excerpts] Israel is ready to launch immediate talks with an independent Palestinian delegation, if it transpires that Jordan has surrendered to Syrian dicta and intends to pose rigid conditions for convening a regional conference. Clarifications to this effect were made by senior political ranks in Jerusalem during the recent talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Senior government sources said last night that the satisfaction with the Israeli position on Palestinian representation which was expressed by Baker last week stems from the basic readiness he obtained from Jerusalem to endorse the list of seven Palestinian notables from the territories that Baker and former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had agreed upon in past talks.

The list includes Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Palestinian Journalists Association; Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj; Gaza Strip Medical Association Chairman Zakariyya al-Agha; As'ad al-Saftawi, a school principal from the al-Burayj refugee camp; Nabulus Attorney Ghassan al-Shak'ah; and two deportees from the territories, who will be permitted by Israel to return to their places of residence prior to the beginning of talks.

The political ranks' condition for talks with a Palestinian delegation is the representatives' assurance that they will refrain from declaring themselves residents of Jerusalem. Thus, the list includes no East Jerusalem residents, such as Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and Hanna Sinyurah, but does include Abu-'Ayyash, who lives in Ramallah and works in East Jerusalem. In the past, after the list was put together, the PLO consented to this representation and, according to Palestinian sources, it has not withdrawn its consent to this day. [passage omitted]

The recent reports on the position of Damascus have reinforced the perception prevailing in Jerusalem—which was presented to Baker, too—that the process should not be based on Syrian support and perhaps not on that of Jordan, either. Senior cabinet ministers have said that Egypt is playing a negative role in the process and that Cairo's activity is designed to reinforce its position in the Arab world, rather than promote the peace process. According to them, the only option now is to resume the effort to persuade residents of the territories to enter negotiations with Israel—with or without elections—rather than wait for a green light from the Arab countries.

Israeli political sources said yesterday that the United States is not exerting sufficiently firm pressure on Syria and Jordan to secure at least their assurance not to interfere with the advancement of the process. Diplomatic sources in Washington said over the weekend that Baker and his aides believe there remains sufficient maneuvering room to continue mediation efforts and that the main effort will focus on the attempt to soften the position of Damascus. This will be done through mediation by emissaries, such as Husayn, Mubarak, and Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 20 May, in a front page report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev, quotes "Jerusalem sources" as having said "yesterday" that "Shamir 'has not closed the door' on the issue of an ongoing conference and the inclusion of the United Nations. He pointed out that Baker must first ascertain whether the Arabs are interested at all in negotiations and whether they accept the American compromise formulas on these issues."]

Prime Minister's Office Denies Deportee Acceptance

TA2005080991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Israel has not agreed to the inclusion of deportees or representatives from East Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation. Sources in the prime minister's office this morning vehemently denied a report published today in HA'ARETZ.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan was told that this is a lie from start to finish. Israel did not discuss the composition of the Palestinian delegation with Secretary of State Baker last week.

Ne'eman Leaving for USSR; No Plan To Buy Reactor

TA2005054591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, has reiterated that he will not discuss the possibility of purchasing a nuclear power station for water desalination purposes on his current visit to the Soviet Union.

Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that Minister Ne'eman is leaving today at the head of a delegation of six scientists for an official 10-day visit to the Soviet Union. The minister will discuss the strengthening of scientific cooperation between the two countries and the implementation of a bilateral agreement on scientific research.

Poland's Walesa Arrives for 'Historic' State Visit

TA2005103991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 May 91

[Excerpts] Poland's President Lech Walesa arrived a short while ago in Israel for a historic state visit. He was received at Ben-Gurion Airport by Foreign Minister David Levi and, together they flew by helicopter to Jerusalem for the official welcoming ceremony at the Rose Garden opposite the Knesset, which is scheduled to begin at any moment. There, Walesa is to be received by President Hayim Herzog, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the speaker of the Knesset, the president of the Supreme Court, Muslim and Christian dignitaries, and other Israeli leaders.

Walesa is the first Polish president ever to visit Israel. He is to hold talks with Herzog, Shamir, Levi, Defense Minister Arens, opposition leader Peres, and trade unions leader Yisra'el Qeysar. He is also to visit the Christian holy places in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Galilee, in addition to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, Kibbutz Lohame Hageta'ot, and the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv.

Walesa has been under attack since his election campaign last year for statements which were seen as anti-Semitic, but he has been at pains to demonstrate that he is a friend of the Jewish people and, during the present visit, he hopes to be able to clear the air. More from our diplomatic reporter Jack Katzenell:

[Passage omitted] Significantly, there is no provision so far for a meeting with Palestinian leaders. A few minutes ago, I spoke to a Polish official and was told that the possibility of meeting with Palestinians was being considered, but no decisions had been made yet. The official I spoke to did not think the meeting would take place, although the matter was on the verge; that was the expression used.

One of the three ministers accompanying Walesa is a minister of education, and this reflects the fact that an agreement will be signed under which Poland undertakes to combat anti-Semitism among its people by means of education.

De Marco Remarks on Holocaust Termed 'Scandalous'

TA1805071391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Israel termed scandalous the remarks by Malta's Foreign Minister Guido de Marco, who is currently president of the UN General Assembly, comparing the Holocaust and the intifadah. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's spokesman, said that if such a comparison was made in a UN document it is a scandal.

AFP reported that in a report presented by De Marco summing up his Middle East tour early this year he wrote, among other things, that the United Nations has a responsibility to the grandchildren of those who suffered in concentration camps just as it has a responsibility toward the children of the intifadah.

IDF Kills Janin Youth; Arab Journalist Murdered

TA1805202791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] A youth from Janin was killed today in a stone-throwing incident in the nearby village of al-Masahiliya. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit was attacked during a routine operation in the village, placing the soldiers' lives in danger. The soldiers initially fired into the air, and later at the man identified as the principal inciter of the group of rioters. Bloodstains were found in subsequent searches in the village. The youth was taken to al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus, where he died shortly afterward. The IDF clamped a curfew on al-Masalihiya and is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 18 May adds that "an Israeli Arab from Nazareth, who went to the market in Janin with his wife and son, was attacked by a group of youngsters with iron clubs. They captured his personal gun and fled. The IDF clamped a curfew on the spot, and is looking for the perpetrators." The man suffered "stab wounds and bruises on his chest and back" and is reported in "moderate condition. His wife was injured in the head by stones and bottles thrown at her."

["In East Jerusalem, three Israeli cars were set on fire and a policeman was slightly wounded in a stone-throwing incident. In another incident, an Arab was shot and wounded in the leg during a chase after stone-throwers.

[" 'Umar Shahin, a 47-year-old Israeli Arab who worked for many years as a journalist for Qol Yisra'el's Arabic program, was murdered last night in East Jerusalem, in the office of the Migdal insurance company, which he directed." He was shot in the chest and head. "Graffiti signed by the Unified Arab Leadership and a note placing responsibility on the terrorists were found on Shahin's home in East Jerusalem's Shu'fat neighborhood. The police are checking both political and nationalistic motives."]

King Husayn Receives Leter from Egypt's Mubarak

JN1805111991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a letter from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak yesterday evening—a letter sent to his majesty from Paris. The letter deals with current efforts led by the United States to activate the peace process in the Middle East.

King Husayn Visits Syria To Discuss Peace Efforts

JN1805101691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Damascus this morning on a short working visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. During the visit he will hold talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad within the coordination between the two leaders and the two fraternal countries about a number of Arab issues, especially international peace efforts based on the U.S. peace plan.

He was seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Highness Prince Faysal Bin-Husayn, the Senate president, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, his private secretary, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman, and senior civil and military officials.

His majesty is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Zayd Bin-Shakir, Political Adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Military Secretary Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

King Returns, Comments

JN1805174091 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this evening ending a brief working visit to the Syrian Arab Republic where he held talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. His majesty discussed the visit with our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Correpondent] Your Majesty: Is it possible to say that your meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has produced coordination and a joint Arab stand on regional developments?

[Husayn] Coordination is ongoing, and work on developing homogeneous postures to promote the hoped-for results will, God willing, continue. The visit has produced good and positive results.

[Correspondent] How far along are things in the region in the wake of recent American efforts?

[Husayn] Contacts are under way. It seems to me there is a determination to work on finding a solution to the central question in this part of the world and its ramifications. I cannot go into details now. I think all the parties concerned are at pains not to go into details as this might create obstacles to efforts to work out a decent and fair peace. I think, though, that the world is interested. Which reminds me of something I would like others to be mindful of, and that is a few months back we were pressing home the need for addressing the Palestinian issue, just as another Arab issue—Iraq's occupation of Kuwait—received due attention. This is a pan-Arab demand, in my opinion. A global interest is called for now. It is still early, but the stirrings are heartening. Hopefully, we will be able to discharge our onerous duties. As for our responsibilities, these extend to the kinfolk in the occupied land and the suffering of our kinfolk and brothers—be they in the occupied terrtitory in Palestine or any other place in the world. It is high time we assumed our responsibilities in terms of the present and future. Let us do what we can while an opportunity exists to tackle a tragic state of affairs. Let us act so as to afford future generations the chance to lead more stable and secure lives and regain their rights. These are the goals we are and have been striving for. [end recording]

More on King's Remarks

JN1805214991 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] His majesty the king returned home tonight after a short working visit to Syria and talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. His Majesty told Jordan Television that his talks with the Syrian president were frank and fruitful, and that his majesty was optimistic.

[Begin recording] [Rana Najm] Your majesty: You've just returned from a brief visit to Damascus. What was the result of your talks with President al-Asad?

[Husayn] I was very encouraged by the discussions we had, which were as usual very frank, and very candid, and very responsive, and probably more so now than at any time in the past due to [word indistinct] the situation that is prevalent in our region, and the efforts for the establishment of a just and durable peace—Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli. And I am quite encouraged by the fact that we can keep in touch and we can coordinate, and, I hope, be positive. If the opportunity is available for us to fulfill our responsibilities towards, in particular, our brethren in the occupied territories and Palestinians everywhere and towards future generations in this region.

[Rana Najm] There appears to be more activity, more coordination on the Arab front with President Mubarak's letter to you yesterday. Does that, is this a positive sign now, coming at this time?

[Husayn] I believe it is inevitable that Arabs should come together at the highest levels and coordinate and cooperate to contribute towards the peace process in a meaningful way, and I am very happy to see that this is materializing.

[Rana Najm] U.S. secretary of state's visit to Israel seems like it brought about some kind of shift in the Israeli position. Has your majesty been briefed on that and what do you think of it?

[Husayn] I have been briefed on that and I believe that the process goes on and headway is being made, and I am very, very optimistic as a result. [end recording]

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives; To Meet Foreign Minister

JN1905064191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 May 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Amman last night on a several-day visit to Jordan.

Palestinian sources said that during his visit, the Palestinian official will meet with senior officials. He will also meet with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri today to discuss the latest political developments.

Badran, Qaddumi Talks

JN1905133291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, in his office today. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the State of Palestine to Jordan, attended.

They reviewed the latest results of current efforts for a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. During the talks, the two parties stressed the need to continue coordinating on these efforts, which must be based on the application of international legitimacy and UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Qaddumi Criticizes GCC

JN1905134691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has criticized the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries' readiness to participate in the peace conference in the capacity of observer. He said that this approach is a card that will be in the interest of others, not the Arabs.

In a press statement, Qaddumi called for complete European participation in the proposed peace conference, and said that this participation is the best solution in a just settlement.

He declared that the PLO and Damascus are working to heal the rift between them. To this effect, he pointed to his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Cairo on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers' conference.

Qaddumi Meets al-Masri

JN1905154791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi at his office today. They reviewed developments in the Palestine question and efforts to bring about a lasting and comprehensive peaceful settlement in the region.

In statements to journalists, Qaddumi stressed the importance of existing coordination and cooperation between Jordan and the PLO and between the PLO and the Arab frontline states, especially concerning the current peace efforts.

He described Jordanian-Palestinian relations at this stage as growing and developing. He did not rule out a meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the near future.

Iranian Majles Group Arrives To Promote Meeting

JN1705122591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] An Iranian Islamic Majles delegation arrived in Amman this morning via al-Ramtha on an official visit of several days to Jordan. The delegation head Ahmad 'Azizi said the Islamic Majles is promoting an international parliamentary congress to address the Palestine question, out of a sense of responsibility on our part toward that issue, as well as to look into ways to support the Palestinian people. The Majles, he added, is working on forming committees to prepare the international meeting.

He said the Iranian delegation's visit to Jordan is part of consultations and coordination with Jordanian Parliamentary deputies before the congress.

Welcoming the Iranian team were MP's Messrs. 'Abd-al-Rahim al- 'Ukur, Kamil al-'Umari, Muhammad al-Dardur, al-Ramtha District Officer Salti Nassar, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Amman.

To Deliver Message

LD1805081691 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—An Iranian parliamentary delegation headed by Majles Deputy Ahmad 'Azizi arrived in Amman Friday to exchange views with the Jordanian parliamentarians on issues related to Palestine and the Islamic uprising of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, intifadah.

'Azizi who is carrying a message from Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi for his Jordanian counterpart said upon arrival in Amman that he will invite a number of Jordanian parliamentarians to take part in the international conference on Palestine and intifadah which is to be held in Tehran in the near future.

'Arabiyat, Iranian Discussions

JN1805141691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat received an Iranian parliamentary delegation at his office today at noon. The speaker and the delegation discussed Arab and Islamic issues. Here are details of the meeting from our correspondent:

[Correspondent] Mr. Ahmad 'Azizi, head of the Interparliamentary Affairs Committee, a committee specialized in international parliamentary affairs in Iran's Islamic Majles, addressed those present to start off the meeting. He said he was happy about the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries following a long break. He praised the hospitality and generosity the delegation has received during its visit to Jordan. Mr. 'Azizi delivered a message to Dr. 'Arabiyat from Iranian Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi containing a proposal to form committees of friendship between the two parliaments as soon as possible to increase cooperation between the two countries and speed up the development of relations. He pointed out that such committees will help in the exchange of information and in the cooperation between the two parliaments within a more organized framework.

Mr. 'Azizi suggested an Islamic parliamentary conference to support and study the Palestine question at the international level. He noted the strong link between the Iranian people and officials and the Palestine question. He added that the Iranian people are ready to make every representation they can so that the Palestine question can triumph. He said: We in the Islamic Majles have approved legislation supporting the Palestine question. The legislation has several dimensions, including the setting up of this conference in which we hope all Islamic countries will take part to realize the goals for which it will be held.

House Speaker 'Arabiyat for his part said he was glad that the delegation was visiting Jordan. He declared that such visits strengthen the unity of the nation and reaffirm the unity of its causes, foremost of which is the Palestine question, the cause of all Arabs and Muslims.

Dr. 'Arabiyat stated he supported an Islamic parliamentary conference. He said he hoped this conference would give the Palestine question a basic dimension and fresh international and Islamic support. He also welcomed discussions between the two parliaments regarding such a conference in which all issues would be presented clearly.

Dr. 'Arabiyat explained to the guest delegation the challenges Jordan has faced and continues to face in confronting the Zionist designs along the longest confrontation line in defense of the Arab and Islamic nations. He explained that through its wise leadership, Jordan has managed to perform this role, which the Islamic nation must understand. The Islamic nation also needs to understand that Jordan's location and duties entail great risks.

Al-Masri Receives Delegation

JN1905141591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received the Iranian Majles delegation, currently visiting Jordan, in his office today. They discussed ties between the two countries and issues of mutual concern.

King, Iranian Discussions

JN1905154991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Ahmad 'Azizi, head of the Interparliamentary Affairs Committee of the Iranian Majles, and his delegation, at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today. They exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues and bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by House of Representatives Speaker 'Abd-al-latif 'Arabiyyat and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Amman.

Iranian Parliamentarians Depart

JN1905184991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The Iranian Majles delegation left Amman for Syria via the al-Ramtha border point this evening at the conclusion of a three-day visit to Jordan.

The delegation's head, Ahmad 'Azizi, said the visit was good and successful. We found all brothers in Jordan eager to promote Jordanian-Iranian relations, he said, adding that the Jordanian House of Representatives has welcomed the idea of a conference for Islamic parliaments soon. He explained that the Palestine question will be the main topic at the conference.

Decree Approves Diplomatic Ties With Nicaragua

JN1905085991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 May 91 p 24

[Text] Amman—A royal decree has been issued approving the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Nicaragua at the embassy level.

Baker's 'Successes' With Arabs, Israelis Examined

JN1905151891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 May 91 p 2

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Baker Has Not Failed"]

[Text] Those who say that Baker's mission in the region has failed are grossly mistaken... and those who say that the American move this time, after the Gulf war, will end

up in nothing, as usual, are also mistaken. The American secretary has achieved success and perhaps successes... but the success he scored was with the Palestinian and Arab side; his mission on the Israeli side stumbled but did not completely fail....

—Baker has succeeded in isolating the EC, whose participation in any likely settlement the Arabs strongly demanded....

—Baker has succeeded in wrenching Soviet support for his mission and the U.S. initiative...

—Baker has succeeded in turning the "international conference" into a regional conference...and later into "a peace conference"....

—Baker has succeeded in wrenching Arab approval for the PLO to be ignored and for neither the PLO nor the Jerusalem Palestinians to participate in the "peace conference"....

—Baker has succeeded in forcing the Gulf "cooperation" states to participate in the "peace conference" as observers....

—Baker has succeeded in persuading Egypt to embrace the "peace conference" and participate in it instead of Syria....

—Baker has succeeded in leaving the establishment of a Palestinian state in the file of oblivion....

There are other undeclared successes Baker has scored with the Arab side....

Baker scored all the declared and undeclared successes while placing emphasis on international legitimacy and Resolutions 242 and 338... at a time when he succeeded in isolating international legitimacy from the conference and wrenched approvals for the conference to be held under American-Soviet supervision... and not UN supervision....

—Those who talk or write about the failure of Baker's mission are the ones who think that a settlement is far off or impossible. Their argument is that the military balance of powers is now largely tipped in favor of Israel....

Had the international balance of powers between the United States and its allies on the one hand, and between the Soviet Union and its allies on the other remained as it was before Gorbachev's perestroyka and before the dismantling, weakening, and transformation of his socialist camp into a U.S. satellite, those people's argument on the Arab-Israeli balance of powers would have been acceptable, reasonable, and correct....

But now that the international and regional balance of powers has completely tipped in favor of the American-Israeli alliance and in such a sweeping way as we can see, such an argument becomes meaningless....

Following the Gulf war and the removal of Iraq from the circle of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and after driving the "Hafar al-Batin" Arabs under its cloak, America can impose the settlement it deems fit to, especially since the Arab situation is now weaker than ever before....

As for Israel, it is no longer an Arab affair; it has become an American affair only... and America can draw up the Israeli position the way it deems fit... without necessarily using with Israel the same methods it is using with the Arabs... for its method with Israel is completely different....

Hence, it can be said that a settlement is not far off... any settlement... and it can be said that Baker has not failed in his mission and that the American movement has not been paralyzed....

'Text' of Cooperation Treaty With Syria

NC1705122291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 May 91

["Text" of "the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between Lebanon and Syria"]

[Text] The Lebanese Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic, on the basis of the distinguished brotherly relations between them which derive their strength from the roots of kinship, history, common affiliation, common destiny, and joint strategic interests; out of their belief that the achievement of the broadest cooperation and coordination between them will serve their strategic interests and provide the means for ensuring their development and progress and for defending their pan-Arab and national security, be a source of prosperity and stability, enable them to face all regional and international developments, and meet the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries; and in implementation of the Lebanese national accord which was ratified by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies on 5 November 1989, have agreed on the following:

Article 1. The two states will work to achieve the highest level of cooperation and coordination in all political, economic, security, cultural, scientific, and other fields in a manner that will realize the interests of the two fraternal countries within the framework of respect for their individual sovereignty and independence and will enable the two countries to use their political, economic, and security resources to provide prosperity and stability, ensure their pan-Arab and national security, and expand and strengthen their common interests, as an affirmation of the brotherly relations and guarantee of their common destiny.

Article 2. The two states will work to achieve cooperation and coordination in the economic, agricultural, industrial, and commercial fields, as well as in the fields of transportation, communications, customs, the establishment of joint projects, and coordination of development plans.

Article 3. The connection between the security of the two countries requires that Lebanon not become a threat to Syria's security and vice versa under any circumstances. Therefore, Lebanon will not allow itself to become a transit point or base for any force, state, or organization that seeks to undermine its security or that of Syria. Syria, which cherishes Lebanon's security, independence, and unity, and the agreement among its people, will not allow any action that threatens Lebanon's security, independence, and sovereignty.

Article 4. After the political reforms are approved in a constitutional manner, as stipulated in the Lebanese national accord, and after the deadlines specified in this accord have expired, the Syrian and Lebanese Governments will decide on the redeployment of the Syrian forces in the al-Biqa' area and the entrance to western al-Biqa' in Dahr al-Baydar up to the Hammanah- al-Mudayrij-'Any Dara line, and if necessary in other points to be specified by a joint Lebanese-Syrian military committee. The two governments will conclude an agreement specifying the size and duration of the Syrian forces' presence in these areas and the relationship of these forces with the authorities of the Lebanese state.

Article 5. The two states' Arab and international foreign policy shall be based on the following principles:

1. Lebanon and Syria are Arab states which are committed to the Arab League Charter, the Arab defense pact and joint economic cooperation, and all agreements ratified within the framework of the Arab League. They are members of the United Nations and are committed to its Charter. They are also members of the Nonaligned Movement.

2. The two countries share a common destiny and common interests.

3. Each country supports the other in issues related to its security and national interests in accordance of the contents of this treaty. Therefore, the governments of the two countries shall coordinate their Arab and international policies, cooperate to the fullest extent possible in Arab and international institutions and organizations, and coordinate their stands on regional and international issues.

Article 6. The following bodies shall be formed to achieve the goals of this treaty. Other bodies can be established by a decision from the Supreme Council.

1. The Supreme Council:

A. The supreme council will consist of the presidents of the two contracting countries and a number of other members from both countries.

B. The supreme council will meet at least once a year, and more often when necessary, at a venue to be agreed upon.

C. The supreme council charts the general policy for coordination and cooperation between the two states in the political, economic, security, military, and other fields. It also supervises the implementation of this policy and adopts the plans and decisions that are made by the executive body, the foreign affairs committee, the economic and social affairs committee, the defense and security affairs committee, or any committee that is established in the future, provided that the constitutional provisions of the two countries are respected.

D. The supreme council's decisions are binding and effective within the framework of the constitutional laws and rules of the two countries, except for those decisions which require the approval of the executive or legislative authorities in the two countries under their constitutional provisions.

E. The supreme council defines the subjects on which the committees concerned have the right to make decisions. Once they are issued, these decisions assume an executive nature within the framework of the constitutional laws and rules of the two countries, except for those decisions which require the approval of the executive or legislative authorities in the two countries under their constitutional provisions.

2. The Executive Body:

The executive body will consist of the prime ministers of the two countries and a number of ministers concerned with the relations between them. This body will assume the following tasks:

A. To follow up on the implementation of the decisions and to submit reports to the supreme council on the phases of implementation.

B. To coordinate the recommendations and decisions of the specialized committees and to submit the proposals to the supreme council.

C. To hold meetings with the specialized committees whenever the need arises.

D. The executive body will meet at least once every six months, and more often when necessary, at a venue to be agreed upon.

3. The Foreign Affairs Committee:

A. The foreign affairs committee will consist of the two countries' foreign ministers.

B. The foreign affairs committee will meet at least once every two months, and more often when necessary, in the two countries' capitals on a rotating basis.

C. The foreign affairs committee will seek to coordinate the foreign policy of the two countries with regard to their relations with all countries. The committee will work to coordinate their activities and stands at Arab and international organizations. The relevant plans will be drawn up and submitted to the supreme council.

4. The Economic and Social Affairs Committee:

A. The economic and social affairs committee will consist of the ministers concerned in the two countries in the economic and social sectors.

B. The economic and social affairs committee will meet in the two countries' capitals on a rotating basis at least once every two months, and more often when necessary.

C. The economic and social affairs committee will be responsible for working to attain economic and social coordination between the two countries and for drawing up the recommendations that will lead to such coordination.

D. The recommendations adopted by the economic and social affairs committee will take effect after they have been endorsed by the supreme council in accordance with the constitutional provisions of the two countries.

5. The Defense and Security Affairs Committee:

A. The defense and security affairs committee will consist of the two countries' ministers of defense and interior.

B. The defense and security affairs committee will be responsible for studying the adequate measures needed to safeguard the two countries' security and for suggesting joint measures to confront any aggression or threat endangering their national security or any unrest that may disturb their internal security.

C. All plans, recommendations, and measures prepared by the defense and security affairs committee will be submitted to the supreme council for endorsement after taking into consideration the constitutional rules of the two countries.

6. The General Secretariat:

A. A general secretariat will be created to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of this treaty.

B. The general secretariat will be headed by a secretary general, who will be appointed by the supreme council.

C. The headquarters, specialization, basis, and budget of the general secretariat will be determined by the supreme council.

Closing Provisions:

A. Special agreements shall be concluded between the two countries in the fields covered by this treaty, such as the economic, security, defense, and other fields, in accordance with the constitutional rules in each of the two countries, and shall complement this treaty.

B. This treaty shall take effect after being ratified by the authorities of the two countries in accordance with their constitutional provisions.

C. Each of the two countries will abrogate any law or regulation which is not in line with this treaty. Such abrogation will be done in done in a way that does not violate any constitutional provision in either country.

18 May Israeli Raid Hits Amal Group in Shabriha

NC1905065891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Israeli aircraft attacked the town of Shabriha yesterday afternoon, targeting a building housing the operations room of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal. Representatives of factions participating in resistance operations were holding a meeting when the air raid took place.

The attack resulted in the building's destruction and the martyrdom of four people: Mahmud Haydar from Tura, Mustafa Nu'man, Husayn al-Duhaymi, and Abu-Saqr,

representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Ahmad Faqih, correspondent of the AL-DIYAR newspaper in Tyre, 'Abdallah Ayyub, Jamal Isma'il, Musa 'Awn, and Ahmad Hajjaj were among the wounded.

Further on Amal Base Raid

NC1805141591 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, May 18 (AFP)—Israeli jets fired six rockets Saturday at a base of the Shi'ite Amal militia near this southern port city, killing at least two Amal militants and wounding three others, the group said.

They said the fighter-bombers pounded and destroyed three Amal buildings at Shabriha, which served as the Amal headquarters for staging anti-Israeli attacks.

The attack occured at 3:30 p.m. (1230 GMT). Relief teams were still sifting through the debris for more casualties more than one hour later, correspondents said.

Amal, a secular Moslem organisation, has claimed responsibility for two recent anti-Israeli attacks. One of the raids was carried out on May 9 jointly with the fundamentalist Iranian-backed Shiite movement, Hizballah.

Amal chief Nabih Birri—a minister of state in the government of Prime Minister 'Umar Karami—advocates implementation of U.N. Resolution 425 which calls for the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops occupying a border strip in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli raid is the 10th against positions in Lebanon, the other nine had targetted Palestinian bases.

The last Iraqi [as received] air attack against an Amal base took place in February 1990.

Amal Issues Statement on Israeli Raid

NC1805165391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] The Lebanese Resistance Battalions—Amal issued the following statement this afternoon:

At 1615 today, a formation of Zionist enemy planes carried out a raid against the center housing the operations room of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions—Amal in Shabriha near 'Abbasiyah in the Tyre area. The building was totally destroyed.

Mahmud Haydar, a native of Tura who served as Amal deputy commander in the Tyre area, and Abu-Sakhr were martyred in the raid. Mustafa Quttan, Jamal Isma'il, 'Abdallah Ayub, Mustafa Nu'man, Mustafa 'Awn, Ahmad Faqih, and Ahmad Hajjaj sustained injuries in the attack and were transferred to hospitals in Sidon for treatment.

Defense Ministry Issues Statement

NC1805201091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 May 91

[Statement by the Lebanese Defense Ministry's Media Department, on 18 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The Israeli enemy launched an air raid against south Lebanon in an obvious attempt to obstruct the peace march, which has made remarkable progress toward its projected goals.

At 1530 today, two Israeli warplanes, flying at a high altitude, approached from the west and raided the hills of Shabriha, northeast of Tyre. The enemy used sophisticated bombs in its attack, causing casualties among civilians and grave property damage.

The army units in the area have been placed on a state of maximum alert.

More Israeli Reinforcements Reported East of Sidon

NC1805065891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] According to security sources, Israeli forces have sent new military reinforcements to the eastern zone and Kafr Falus combat lines east of Sidon.

The Israelis brought long-range artillery units to Shab'a and the Kafr Hunah area near Jazzin. They also deployed about 20 armored vehicles in the vicinity of Marj 'Uyun, al-'Ayshiyah, and Jurmuq.

Israelis Shell, Damage Villages in South

NC1905160991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The artillery of the Israeli occupation forces shelled the villages of Bra'shit, Yatar, and Kafra in the central sector of the south at midday today. The bombardment caused extensive material damage.

Israeli Planes Raid Amal Base in Tyre Area

NC1805134791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1336 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] REUTER, citing security sources in the south, reports that Israeli combat aircraft have carried out a raid against an Amal Movement base in Shabriha, 5 km northeast of Tyre. The sources said that at least two planes took part in the raid and fired two missiles at the base. [In a similar report, Paris AFP in Engish at 1342 gmt on 18 May adds that "two Amal militants were killed and three wounded during the raid."]

Israeli Overflights; Mock Raids Over Al-Damur

NC2005085891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the south and the mountain and broke the sound barrier at 1045. The planes conducted mock raids over the area of al-Damur.

'Tension,' in South; PFLP Predicts Attacks

NC1905084191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] A state of tension prevails in the occupied border strip, where the occupation forces have intensified their foot and motorized patrols along various lines. Intelligence units are also active, particularly at the crossing points.

The Zionist forces have been sending more troops and vehicles to the area for the past two days. A Zionist convoy consisting of more than 25 tanks and troop carriers as well as trucks laden with munitions, food, and fuel passed the al-Mtullah gate, proceeded to the Jazzin area, and took up positions near Marj 'Uyun, al-'Ayshiyah, and (al-Jirmuk).

A source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has predicted large-scale Israeli attacks on eastern Sidon. Noting the Israeli military reinforcements in the area, the source said that all fighters have been placed on alert to be ready for any eventuality.

Iranian Charge Comments on Hostage Issue

NC1605161891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Iranian Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Javad Zamanian has hinted that Iran is ready to help in every way for the release of all the hostages for humanitarian reasons. He said that exchanges continue in this regard but, regrettably, there has been no convincing answer so far.

Zamanian made these remarks, at the end of his visit, to Minister Nabih al-Bizri, who expressed the hope that Iran will appoint an ambassador to Lebanon as soon as possible. Minister al-Bizri also said he hoped that Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz' talks in Tehran will be successful.

Gulf Troops Said To Withdraw in 'Next Few Days'

NC2005113391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I newspaper reported today that Syria will begin to withdraw its troops from the Gulf in the next few days.

Al-Asad Receives Jordan's King in Damascus

JN1805104491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrived in Damascus at 1215 today. At the head of those receiving him at the airport was President Hafiz al-Asad. He was also received by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the deputies of the prime minister, ministers, the Syrian ambassador in Amman, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

His excellency the president and his majesty the king proceeded in an official motorcade to Tishrin Palace, where the esteemed guest will stay. His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Zayd Bin-Shakir, King's Political Adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, King's Military Secretary Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

At Tishrin Palace, President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn held a meeting attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur, and Syrian Ambassador in Amman Majid Abu-Salih. On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the king and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

At 1300 today, his excellency the president and his majesty the king resumed their talks in a closed meeting they held at the presidential palace.

Al-Asad Greets Mubarak on Arrival in Damascus

JN1905084791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0805 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 0945 today.

President Hafiz al-Asad was at the head of those welcoming him at Damascus International Airport.

He was also welcomed by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the deputies of the prime minister, the ministers, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

The two presidents began their talks in a closed session.

President Mubarak is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Zakariyah 'Azmi, director of the President's Office, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Mubarak Departs; Al-Asad Comments

JN1905124491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1117 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 0945 today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the prime minister's deputies, the ministers, and the Egyptian ambassador and the embassy staff. The two presidents began their talks in a closed meeting.

President Mubarak is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Zakariyah 'Azmi, director of the President's Office; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President Office for Political Affairs.

The meeting was later joined on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar; and on the Egyptian side by Dr. Kamal al- Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the President Office for Political Affairs.

The talks dealt with the region's conditions and developments and the efforts being exerted within the moves to promote the process of a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions.

President Mubarak informed the president of the results of his talks and contacts during his European tour.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Damascus at 1200 today. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the prime minister's deputies, the ministers, and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

The president answered questions by Egyptian journalists accompanying President Mubarak. He denied any link between the visit to Damascus yesterday by His Majesty King Husayn and President Mubarak's visit today. He said: There is no link between the two visits.

Asked if there is any hope of something positive after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tours and the talks he held with the president, President al-Asad said: If there was no hope, we would not have held talks.

The president was asked about the obstacles which the Israelis and Palestinians might place in the path of the peace process. He said: The obstacle is placed by the Israelis; but as for the Palestinians, no one has talked to them so far. The Israelis are the ones who reject things and place obstacles. They have placed hundreds of no's in the face of the peace process. They say no to the return of territories to their owners, no to the United Nations, no to Europe's participation in the peace conference, no to the Palestinian's rights, and many more no's of which the world has become aware. They do not accept peace. They demand that the Arabs go to them and put their signature on the status quo that runs contrary to international legitimacy.

Asked about the solution for the obstacles which Israel places in the path of peace, his excellency said: There is no escape from implementing the UN resolutions and respecting international legitimacy. The whole world is now talking about a new world, and the new world referred to here is the world of international legitimacy. The world is committed to international legitimacy, and therefore, this world is capable of imposing its legitimacy on any country that violates that international legitimacy. Refusal to implement the UN resolutions constitutes rebellion against international legitimacy, and the world must address this rebellion with what it deserves.

Council of Ministers Praises Treaty With Lebanon

JN1805212191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2021 GMT 18 May

[Text] The Council of Ministers met in an extraordinary session this evening under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The participants studied and discussed the draft treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Lebanon, and reviewed the treaty's clauses, which cover various fields.

During the discussion, the Council of Ministers stressed the historical relations, ties of brotherhood, roots of kinship, mutual affiliation, and the feelings and aspirations, distinctive because of their depth, strength, and constance, between the two fraternal countries in all circumstances. It also stressed that the treaty, which comes at the time of the fulfillment of the Lebanese national reconciliation charter, represents the aspirations of the Lebanese and Syrian peoples and responds to the dictates of a genuine popular reality and an established and continuous responsibility for the two countries and governments support each other and face challenges together. The Council of Ministers also stressed that the years of painful suffering which the Lebanese people have endured have demonstrated the depth and enormity of the tasks which the two fraternal countries have had to shoulder to shape the unity of the Syrian-Lebanese destiny.

The Council of Ministers congratulated Lebanon—its people, president, and government—for the decisive steps taken in Lebanon's national march. The Council also voiced appreciation for Lebanon's sincere efforts to establish a national reconciliation on strong and comprehensive bases that accommodate the national and pan-Arab hopes and aspirations of all the Lebanese people.

The Council of Ministers also stressed that the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination constitutes a historic step in the improvement of the distinguished relations between Syria and Lebanon inasmuch as the clauses of this treaty contain formulas of cooperation and coordination in the political, economic, social, cultural, scientific, security, and other fields, which will boost the aspirations of the two fraternal countries and enable them to achieve common objectives in the progress, development, and strengthening of security in Syria and Lebanon. They will also open up broad horizons for the resources of the two countries in the realization of development plans that will achieve stability and prosperity for the two fraternal countries.

The Council of Ministers unanimously approved the draft treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the Republic of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Council of Ministers also voiced great appreciation for the pan-Arab course followed by Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad and the credibility of its firm, principled policy in all Arab and international fields—a policy Syria has demonstrated in the Lebanese arena by giving continuous support to Lebanon; facing the threats against its stability, unity, and destiny; improving the march of Lebanese national reconciliation; helping the legitimate authority take constructive steps and extend control over all of Lebanon's territory; keeping Lebanon united and stable so that all of its children may live in tranquility so that security and peace may prevail and Lebanon may become more fully able to continue its triumphant national march and liberate the south from Israeli occupation.

Treaty, 'Special' Ties Hailed

JN1705160591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Nothing pleases Syria more than to see the Lebanese national accord overcome all the obstacles and wounds and recover from a long dark night of 16 years and then to see Lebanese citizens joining together in strong unity under a legitimate government that is determined to spread the government's authority, the Constitution, and law. Nothing pleases Syria more than the loyalty of the Lebanese brothers to their second country,

Syria, which shared with them the loaf of bread and suffering over the past difficult years.

The Lebanese Government approved the treaty of brotherhood, coordination, and cooperation between the twin countries, Lebanon and Syria, to work out a firm and proper framework for their relationship, serve their joint interests, and reassert historical, geographical, and blood ties. This, in fact, expresses Lebanon's gratitude to Syria, which has offered great sacrifices to help the fraternal country and foil the enemies' plans to harm Lebanon's territorial integrity and the unity of its people.

In fact, Syrian-Lebanese ties are so deep and comprehensive that they cannot be epitomized in any treaty, because these ties have deep roots in history and have been baptized in blood, sacrifice, and suffering over the past years. Thus, the treaty confirms the two fraternal countries' common aspirations and fate, and serves to warn the enemies who have tried in vain over the past years to sow dissension and sedition between them. It is also a crowning achievement of the Lebanese and Syrian peoples' desire to enhance their special ties.

By expressing to President al-Hirawi his satisfaction with the progress of the national accord and with current efforts to strengthen the constitutional institutions and increase security, peace, and the government's authority over all areas, and by stressing Syria's support for the Lebanese brothers in overlooking the past, leader al-Asad reiterates Syria's commitment to support the unity of Lebanon—its territory and people—and to reinforce its security and stability in light of our common objective and destiny. What harms Lebanon harms Syria, and the reverse is also true.

The painful events that have taken place over the past years have proved that Syria used all its material and moral weight to completely support Lebanon and make great sacrifices. It has never lost hope or the faith that the Lebanese would be able to overcome sedition, foil enemy plans, and restore their unity and role in the region. Leader al-Asad has been preoccupied with Lebanon over the past painful years, and he gave it much of his time and effort. Leader al-Asad is satisfied with the way the Lebanese are currently dealing with present events, with the Lebanese brothers' gratitude to Syria, and with their adherence to the special relationship between the two countries.

The treaty of brotherhood, coordination, and cooperation approved by the Lebanese Government came in response to the Lebanese will—a treaty which has been a popular demand. Our Lebanese brothers consider the treaty a guarantee for their country, future, and stability, because it serves Lebanon's interests before Syria's. Fraternal Lebanon owes much to leader al-Asad's determination to confront the conspiracy that targeted its territory and people. Just as the special Syrian-Lebanese relationship owes much to al-Asad's tangible sacrifices and efforts, Lebanon and the special Syrian-Lebanese relationship also owe much to President al-Hirawi, the first Lebanese president who strongly and resolutely confronted the conspiracy and rejected any truce with the partitionists or any deal sacrificing the unity of the country. He is the first Lebanese president who believed that Lebanon would triumph through its cooperation with Syria, which transformed faith into action by reliance on Syria's ability.

The result is what we see today—a united Lebanon—which is quickly restoring its health, accord, and stability; which is planning to regain the occupied south; and which solidifies its special relations with Syria in a treaty of brotherhood, coordination, and cooperation in order to protect the twin countries from enemy plans and provide a prosperous future for their citizens.

'Cohesion' With Lebanon Viewed

JN1905075791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In one of its commentaries today, AL-THAWRAH dealt with the Lebanese situation and the successful march led by the legitimate Lebanese Government. The paper pointed out that Syrian- Lebanese cohesion, which is baptized in blood, is being daily strengthened without limit. Lebanon and Syria have joint historic, geographic, and human ties, in addition to enjoying top-level cooperation and coordination in other fields, which has extended over many decades.

The paper said: Stemming from this foreordained connection, President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi the continuation of Syria's assistance to help tide the Lebanese brothers over the experience of the past period, which caused them much suffering. Thanks to Syria's support for the wishes of the Lebanese people and their legitimate government, the march of national reconciliation has been realized, the constitutional institutions resuscitated, and peace, security, and legitimate authority established in Lebanese areas. Therefore, it was only natural that Lebanon should insist on establishing special relations with Syria through a treaty of brotherhood, coordination, and cooperation, encompassing economic and security areas and coordinating the two countries' foreign policy.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH said: The restoration of Lebanon's health and the liberation of southern Lebanon constitutes a national and pan-Arab achievement at a time when Israel is seeking to create a state of despair and frustration in the Arab homeland. This calls for a responsible Arab effort to assist Lebanon in its national march and protect it against any Israeli aggression.

Syrian, Lebanese Oil Ministers Discuss Cooperation

JN1905185891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA)—Dr. Matanyus Habib, minister of oil and mineral resources, met here today with Muhammad al-Jarudi, Lebanon's oil and industry minister.

They reviewed relations in the petroleum field between Syria and Lebanon, particularly the execution of the cooperation agreement between them to provide Lebanon with oil and oil by-products.

USSR Deputy Defense Minister Sees Talas, Departs

JN1805181991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1721 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 18 May (SANA)—General Mustafa Talas, deputy general commander of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, received at his office this morning Comrade General Nikolay Ivanovich Shlyaga, director of the USSR General Political Department and deputy Soviet defense minister [titles as received], and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by the general director of the Political Department of the Syrian Arab Army.

Talks centered on the relations of friendship that link the Syrian and Soviet armies and ways of developing these relations to serve the interests of the two friendly armies and countries.

Comrade General Shlyaga declared that he was very impressed during his visit to Syria with the standard of living and development and with the bonds of cooperation and friendship that he felt. He wished Syria, under its leader comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, all prosperity and progress.

The guest delegation left Damascus International Airport this afternoon and was seen off with great honor and hospitality. Seeing the delegation off was the general director of the Political Department of the Syrian Arab Army and a number of administrative officers.

Israel's 'Latest Display of Stubborness' Assailed

JN1805145191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: After hearing Secretary Baker report on his fourth Middle East tour, President Bush said the United States will pursue the peace conference notion, and that depending on fresh developments, another trip to the region by Baker is not ruled out. As was the case in his previous three tours of the region, the American secretary encountered the same Israeli intransigence and scored no success in his attempts to get the enemy leaders to soften their hard line on the nature of the peace conference and a UN role there. The Shamir government has gone out of its way to torpedo American efforts. President Bush is on record as pledging the United States to a comprehensive settlement predicated on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the territory-for-peace formula, and a conference grouping all the parties concerned. No sooner had this commitment been made by the U.S. President than he was rebuffed by Israel. The Israeli prime minister has come out openly against a trade of territory for peace and has stated that Israel will retain all the occupied territories. He then moved to speed up the settlement drive in the West Bank, with outposts being built even during Baker's tours of the region. Sharon argued that Soviet Jews are entitled to settle anywhere they wished throughout the so-called land of Israel—meaning the entire Palestinian territory. Moreover, the Israeli prime minister has ruled out any UN role in the proposed peace conference. He has also come out against European attendance, and even American-Soviet sponsorship of the conference, and he has insisted that the parley be a one-time, purely ceremonial affair. Obviously Shamir's insistence on excluding the United Nations and Europe from the conference is to circumvent binding UN resolutions on withdrawal from the occupied land or those regarding national Palestinian rights. Further signalling a determination to scuttle efforts to promote a comprehensive settlement, Shamir has been adamant that the Arab-Israeli dispute be addressed as an issue independent of the Palestinian question. He has also been anxious to exclude Syria from the proposed conference, in light of its demand that the United Nations and Europe be there and that the parley have effective powers, and because of Syria's opposition to the conference's dealing with problems of the region as separate, unrelated issues, and its insistence that UN resolutions not be approached according to double standards.

Israel's latest display of stubborness and its maneuvers to have Syria—its pivotal role in the region notwithstanding—excluded from the conference has bewildered international circles. Reasons: The American secretary of state and the USSR foreign minister have both acknowledged Syria's centrality in any peacemaking; the Europeans have also said that regional peace is out of the question without Syrian participation in a peace conference; and President Mubarak has asserted that without Syria, Egypt will not be there. And yet, Zionist officials continue to harp on the same topic, with Shamir claiming that the problem lies with Syria and that the ball is now in the Arab court.

Israel's tricks and falsehoods no longer deceive anyone. The consensus is that the major stumbling blocks to the peacemaking effort are Israel's clinging to and Judaizing of the occupied Arab land. Only when Israel decides to accommodate the will of the international community, heed right and reason, and return the occupied land to the Arabs, will there cease to be any obstacles to the peace efforts. Israel's intransigence and insistence that the United Nations be left out and that the dispute be

addressed item by item, aim to cover up its real objective of swallowing up and Judaizing the occupied Arab land. In contrast, the Arab side has shown full cooperation with American and international efforts. Syria, for its part, has shown that it is prepared to join any peace process based on UN resolutions. The ball has never been in the Arab court; it has always been in the Zionist, anti-peace court, ever seeking a chance to expand and aggress. Perhaps the ball is now in the international court, which ought to see to the implementation of UN resolutions and put a limit to Israel's aggressiveness and rebelliousness against international legitimacy. This much has been acknowledged by the president of the UN General Assembly, who visited the occupied land and urged the international community to curb Israel's crimes and Nazi-like practices.

Al-Zu'bi, Portuguese Minister Discuss Ties

JN2005070991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this evening received Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro and his delegation. They looked into ways to develop relations between Syria and Portugal in various spheres and talked about regional developments.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Assesses Syrian Visit

JN2005094991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 20 May (SANA)—Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro left Damascus this morning after a three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

To see him off at the airport were Mr. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the heads of the Western Europe and Protocol Desks at the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Pinheiro made statements to the SANA correspondent in which he described his visit to Damascus as very important. He said: I had the honor of meeting and holding talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. He informed us of the issues that are of interest to the EEC.

Mr. Pinheiro expressed his great admiration for the analyses presented by President Hafiz al-Asad of the situation in the region. This is a very important topic of great interest to us all.

The Portuguese minister expressed pleasure with the success of his visit and talks with Syrian officials which dealt with bilateral relations and agreements over exchanging delegations and developing bilateral trade relations.

India

General Elections for Lok Sabha Seats Begins

No Postponements of Polls

BK1805090691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] The Election Commission has decided not to put off polls in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal, where it had apprehended prepoll violence.

The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, told our correspondent this morning that the commission has received specific and satisfactory replies from the governments of these three states. The chief secretaries of these states have also assured the commission of every possible step to ensure free and fair polls.

At a press conference yesterday, Mr. Seshan warned of postponement of elections in Pratapgarh and Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh; Vaishali, Madhepura, Purnia, Patna, Ranchi, and Arrah in Bihar; and in Calcutta northeast and Jhargram in West Bengal, if steps are not taken to curb violence.

The commission has also received a satisfactory reply from the Haryana government about steps for conducting a smooth poll on Monday.

Congress-I Seen as Frontrunner

BK1905071491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 19 (AFP)—Three opinion polls published Sunday put former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party as the front runner in India's staggered general elections beginning Monday.

But the most comprehensive of the three surveys warned that the congress might not get a majority in the 545-seat Lok Sabha, lower house of parliament, and that the world's largest democracy might face another hung parliament.

All three polls, conducted by reputed magazines and newspapers, spoke of a dramatic surge by the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is fighting to gain power for the first time.

The Congress (I), India's oldest political party, which has governed New Delhi almost without interruption since independence in 1947, was voted out of office in November 1989 by a loose coalition of opposition parties.

It is pitted this time mainly against the BJP and former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's National Front coalition, which has an alliance with communists.

INDIA TODAY fortnightly, which predicted election outcomes accurately in 1980, 1984 and 1989 elections,

said in its latest issue that the Congress would end up with 233 seats, 18 short of majority.

The Congress (I) secured more than 400 seats in 1984 and 195 in 1989.

It said the BJP, a cadre-based party that won 86 seats in the 1989 polls, would along with its junior partner Shiv Sena (Lord Shiva's Army), win in about 155 constituencies.

The magazine put the National Front-Left Front's tally at 105.

INDIA TODAY—India's NEWSWEEK and TIME rolled into one—said its survey covered 20,312 voters, including 14,340 villagers, spread over 400 locations in 51 constituencies between May 7 and May 10.

Each voter was asked: "If an election were held tomorrow, who would you vote for?"

INDIA TODAY added that "there is still a fair degree of uncertainty prevailing among the electorate" and that a swing of a mere one per cent could result in a shift of 15 to 20 seats.

THE HINDU and THE TIMES OF INDIA also gave the Congress (I) the number one place in their surveys and said the contest in most parts of the country would be between Mr. Gandhi's party and BJP.

Both said that Mr. Gandhi, 47, who is seeking votes with promises of political stability to underline the uncertainty in New Delhi since his party's loss in November 1989, was the majority choice for prime minister.

The BJP is contesting on a brazenly Hindu platform, and Mr. V.P. Singh's centrist Janata Dal (People's Party), the National Front's core constituent, is promising social equity if voted in.

A record number of more than 8,500 candidates are in the fray for 507 Lok Sabha seats going to hustings May 20, 23 and 26. Voting has been countermanded in three constituencies due to the death of candidates.

Balloting is to be held for 27 constituencies in Assam and Punjab states next month. Elections in Kashmir, which puts six MP's in parliament, have been put off because of a violent Muslim separatist campaign.

Uttar Pradesh Curfew

BK1905130491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in four police station areas of Kanpur following violent incidents. The areas are: Mulganj, Bajaria, Colonelganj, and Bikanganj. Two persons, including a woman, were killed and one police constable was seriously injured in the incident. The DIG [deputy inspector general] of police told our correspondent that the incident occurred when people started throwing stones on an election procession at Nai Sarak.

Official on 'Irregularities' Check

BK1905162991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The first round of the world's largest electoral exercise gets under way tomorrow to elect representatives for 204 Lok Sabha and nearly 600 assembly seats. More than 19 crore 17 lakh people in nine states and four union territories are expected to exercise their franchise. A record number of central security personnel have been deployed to supplement state police forces to ensure free, fair, and peaceful polling. The Election Commission is for the first time using an extensive computer network which will enable to get quicker details of polling and monitor security at any polling station. Over 300 Election Commission observers will supervise the polls throughout the country. The commission has issued a special directive for sensitive constituencies which have been under vigil for 48 hours before polling begins.

Speaking to newsmen, the chief election commissioner said that elaborate steps have been taken to prevent booth capturing and other irregularities. He assured the voters that ballot boxes will be subjected to extraordinary security from tomorrow till these are open for counting. He made it clear that the commission will not hesitate to postpone or put off polls if irregularities like booth capturing and rigging come to notice. Mr. Seshan said the commission is assessing the situation caused by floods in some of the northeastern states. He said more aircraft have been provided to these states for sending polling material and personnel to different remote areas.

The Election Commission has decided not to put off polls in three identified Lok Sabha constituencies in Andhra Pradesh. The chief election commissioner said the decision follows assurances from the state government that it will take all possible steps to ensure a smooth poll. The commission yesterday felt that the conditions were not deemed conducive to a free poll in these three places and sought a reply from the state government by today.

First Phase of Polling 20 May

BK2005024291 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 0130 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Polling for 204 Lok Sabha and some assembly seats has begun under the first phase of general elections in the biggest democratic exercise in nine states and four union territories. In today's polling, more than 197.70 million voters will exercise their franchise.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made throughout the country to conduct fair and free polls. In addition to the state police force, a large number of central security forces are being deployed. The Election Commission has installed a comprehensive computer network for the first time to obtain rapid information about the elections. The commission will also be able to get detailed information about security situation besides

the position of polling through the network. More than 300 observers will supervise the polling.

The Election Commission has issued special directives to those constitutencies where there are apprehensions of trouble. In such constituencies, special steps have been taken even 48 hours before the start of the polls in order to prevent booth capturing and other irregularities. The chief election commissioner, T.N. Seshan, has assured the electorate that strict measures will be taken for the protection of ballot boxes. Mr. Seshan has also made it clear that the Election Commission will not hesitate to postpone or cancel the elections in those centers where there are any incidents of booth capturing or irrgularities of any sort.

Early Polling Trends Reported

BK2005034691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] The world's biggest democratic exercise, involving about 20 crore voters, began an hour ago in nine states and four union territories. Under the first phase, the polling is being held today to elect 204 Lok Sabha representatives. Polling is also being held for the 90 seats of Haryana assembly, 294 seats of West Bengal assembly, and about half of the 425 seats of the Uttar Pradesh assembly.

Today's poll will decide the fate of more than 3,900 candidates, including two former prime ministers, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. V.P. Singh; BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and Mr. L.K. Advani; and several union ministers including, Mr. Yashwant Sinha and Mr. Subodh Kant.

In Delhi, polling began on a mild note. Our correspondent, who went round several polling booths in the capital, found voters slowly reaching the booths. Among the early voters was the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and his wife. They exercised their franchise at a polling booth near Nirman Bhavan. Our correspondent, S.S. Sethi, who went round some areas of the capital reports:

[Begin Sethi recording] A quick round of some polling stations in Delhi shows that the polling has started on a low profile. Very small queues of voters are seen at the polling booths. Some presiding officers told me that the turnout of voters is expected to pick up after some time. Fortunately, the weather in Delhi is quite pleasant because of the sudden appearance of clouds. The security arrangements in the capital are very tight and the police seem to be very vigilant to maintain law and order. [end recording]

In Haryana, voters were seen standing in long queues from early this morning in front of many polling booths. Prominent among those who are in the fray include the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal; union ministers Rao Birendra Singh and Mr. Jai Prakash; and former chief ministers Mr. Bhajan Lal, Mr. Bansi Lal and Mr. Hukum Singh.

In Uttar Pradesh, polling in 42 Lok Sabha and 207 assembly segments began at 0700 this morning. Eight hundred and seventeen candidates are in the fray for the Lok Sabha and about 4,000 for the vidhan sabha [legislative assembly] in the first phase. The curfew in Varanasi was lifted from 0600 this morning to allow the voters to exercise their franchise. Adequate security arrangements have been made for peaceful polling.

In the lone Chandigarh parliamentary constituency, people are seen lining up in most of the 385 polling stations before the start of polling. The union territory has made elaborate security arrangements. The territory has been divided into 12 sectors each under one magistrate. Our Chandigarh correspondent, Trehan, reports on the early poll scene.

[Begin Trehan recording] The polling for the lone Chandigarh parliamentary constituency has started since 0700. At most of the polling stations I have so far visited, people have started queueing up to exercise their right of franchise even before the time of start. Such people included early morning walkers, shopkeepers, and daily wage earners. At one polling station, an 80-year old man was the first to cast his vote. He told me with a pride that he has participated in all the elections held so far in the country. The polling during the morning hours is likely to be brisk since most of the voters will try to avoid the scorching heat of the day. The Chandigarh administration has made elaborate security arrangements to ensure free and fair polls. [end recording]

In Bihar, the first round of polling began this morning amid tight security. Thirty five out of 54 Lok Sabha constituencies are going to the polls today. Our Patna correspondent reports voters lined up before the polling booths much before the start of polling.

In West Bengal, polling began on a brisk note with a large number of voters, particularly women, lining up in front of the polling booths to cast their votes.

In Himachal Pradesh, polling for the four Lok Sabha seats began on a brisk note. Voters in large numbers are seen in front of the booths from early this morning.

In the union territory of Lakshadweep, a large number of voters gathered in front of the polling booths despite cloudy weather. Eighteeen polling stations have been set up in the union territory exclusively for women. Lakshadweep is witnessing a straight fight for th lone Lok Sabha seat.

In Bhopal, polling began on a moderate note. This morning, our correspondent, who went round several polling booths, reports that women are outnumbering men in many polling booths.

A record number of Central Security Force personnel have been deployed to supplement state police forces to

ensure free and fair polling. Over 300 election commission observers will supervise the elections. The commission has issued special directives for sensitive constituencies, which have been under vigil for the last two days.

The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, has made it clear that the commission will not hesitate to postpone or put off polls, if irregularities such as booth-capturing and rigging come to notice.

Bush Statement on Chemical Weapons Welcomed

BK1505155991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] India has welcomed the statement by the U.S. President, Mr. Bush, denouncing the use of chemical weapons for any reason or against any state. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that Mr. Bush's unconditional commitment to destroy all stocks of chemical weapons held by the United States within 10 years of the coming into force of convention on chemical weapons will make a crucial contribution to the convention currently being held in Geneva.

Claims of Destroyed Outpost Said 'Baseless'

BK1905035291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] India has described as baseless Pakistani Army claims of having destroyed an Indian border outpost in the Karan sector in Kashmir, killing 90 jawans [soldiers]. An official spokesman in New Delhi strongly refuted the claims made by a Pakistan news agency, quoting Pakistani Army commanders, and said these are figments of the imagination.

Iran

Friday Sermon Assails U.S. Mideast Presence

LD1705124391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 91

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili at Tehran University on 17 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Today my comments in the first sermon relate to a subject that has worried all of us, all Muslims and all the honorable and revolutionary people of Iran, and most people are anxiously thinking about it, that is, the military and physical presence of the Great Satan on our doorstep and in the heart of the Islamic lands. We will not forget, and cannot forget, that is, a revolutionary nation cannot forget that our nation could not tolerate the Great Satan and rose against its political presence and the enforcement of its cursed policies by its mercenaries and servants, who were ostensibly our [words indistinct] and were in fact its servants. It was a glorious, dignified and earth-shattering revolution. It was a revolution for which the blood of so many martyrs was shed and so much was sacrificed in order to cut from the region its military presence, influence and policies and rid the Muslims of its evil policies.

Today it is not a question of military presence, it is not a question of hegemonistic policy through its lackeys. Today it has come to the heart of the Islamic lands—the ground, the air, the people, and the underground resources which solely belong to Islam—in full force and with all its equipment; it has set up camp and has no thought of leaving.

We do not clearly understand what it is after, with its evil policy, its new world order, its safe haven in northern Iraq. What does it want? Is it pursuing what it has planned to do and impose, but has not been able to, since the outset of the Palestinian uprising? America is only concerned about Israel's security. It wants to safeguard Israel's security at any cost. That is what it wants. Why has it brought so many troops? why has it done so much? Does it want to take control of the source of energy in the region? Does it want to plunder the treasures God has given Muslims? Has it come for that? Has it come to follow up the old colonialist policy, when other countries openly placed people on the throne of India, imposed certain companies on Iran, set up the Anglo-Iranian oil company, and so on. And later when they realized that this was not viable, they introduced the new colonialism. And subsequently they granted pseudo-independence to the colonies; in reality they installed their own paid agents, whose job was to enforce the orders of the former colonial powers.

What these uprisings did, what these revolutions and liberation movements did, in fact, was to bring home gradually to the colonial powers that new colonialism could no longer be viable.

America has come to the region to establish an order here to last for 30 years, 40 years, or 50 years. The new order is to forestall the likelihood of a revolution like that of Iran taking place—or a revolution less effective than ours, like revolutions which occurred elsewhere and which America managed to suppress. Now it wants peace of mind for 30 years, 40 years, or 50 years. Is that why it has come here? Does it want to break up Iraq? Does it intend to keep Saddam in power? Does it intend to gradually shape up an independent Kordestan and then let it loose as a danger to Iran, Turkey, Syria, and Iraq? What does it want? What is America after?

We do not know what its intentions are. But there is evidence for all the above-mentioned hypotheses. They make statements; then somebody comes to announce part of one statement and leave out another part. Again, somebody else comes to say something different; then

there are protests and somebody else makes a denial. Well, it is a satan after all. It engages in satanic mischief.

Where are these currents taking place? Within our earshot; next to our own territory. So what shall we do?

For one thing, we must never forget that America has not forgotten us. We must not say that 12 years have gone by since our revolution and that America has played every trick and resorted to every plot against us during those 12 years and since she has failed, therefore, she no longer has anything to do with us. We must not face the problem so light-heartedly, so optimistically.

They have drawn up plans for the next 20 years, 30 years, 40 years and 50 years. They have definitely not forgotten us; they have not forgiven our revolution. They have not forgotten the blows which Islam has dealt them. They are engaged in mischief day and night. And they work cleverly.

Such a reality bothers us; it hurts us. And it forces us to feel responsible. What else can we do? How can we be happy-go-lucky 12 years after the revolution? How can we say, fine, we performed our duty and now we want to rest?

That is not possible. Did we not say that we must perform our duty even if we were at our last breath? We used to say that we would never abandon the sacred objectives of the revolution; we will defend them until the last drop of blood in our veins. [crowd chants Allhu Akbar, Khamene'i is our leader, Death to Israel, Death to America]

Therefore, now that their aims and goals are unknown and ambiguous to us, it is a divine and first priority obligation for the revolutionary nation of Iran to seriously maintain its readiness to confront that sworn enemy of Islam and the revolution. We should maintain our preparedness. What does that mean? First of all, we should not ignore America's presence behind our ears, in the heart of the Islamic lands, as a serious and certain danger. We should be careful not to pass it by quietly, nonchalantly and indifferently. The second issue is that when we see such a serious threat is posed against us, we should safeguard our unity, our solidarity, and our steadfastness within the country to the highest possible level. We should not expose our society to the disease of discord, conflict, and diversity by our words and speeches and by attacking and abusing one another. We should not wear out and tire our forces, disappoint them, and drive them away from the scene. [passage omitted]

We should maintain unity. We cannot confront such a huge Great Satan single-handed. We should achieve a unity stronger than that which existed in those days, an eagerness and enthusiasm greater than the one which existed in those days. At that time our enemy was taken by surprise and its calculations proved wrong. Today our enemy has come well equipped, it has corrected its mistakes. Can we now confront it any weaker than those days? We should mobilize our forces, support them all, and protect them. Those forces and those people have proven their sincerity in the struggle against counterrevolution and in the struggle for Islam; they have given their lives, their health and wealth, they have struggled and shown their worth. [passage omitted] Take care of those people. We must protect those forces, the vast student movement, the vast workers movement, the farmers, Bazaris, city dwellers; all of them. We must be on guard.

The enemy is here once again. We must not think that they will leave us alone if we leave them alone. They seek revenge for those days, they want to retaliate for those slaps in their faces. They want to put their minds at ease so that they do not have to think about problems for the next 10 to 50 years. This is the sort of enemy we are dealing with. This is bothering us. We have to mobilize our forces. Where are those dear Basijees [mobilization corps]? Thank God they are around, the students, the workers, the peasants, the hezbollahis are all still around; they should feel for the revolution. [passage omitted]

The enemy left, it mobilized its forces, it rectified its mistakes, and came back with new tactics. We have to face the enemy with our own tactics. If we have made mistakes, if we did not fully comprehend something, we have to think again, we have to rectify those mistakes. Our objectives and slogans are holy. We have to rectify our mistakes. We must ask our people to be patient. We must invite them to refrain from amassing wealth and enjoying themselves. We must warn the people: Do not allow these thoughts into your mind, which would make the revolution rot from within.

Let us avoid quarrels. [passage omitted] Let us put our hope in God and deal sincerely with the people. Never, never let us create terror even for the sake of the holy objectives of the revolution. Let us have tolerance towards criticism. Let us never give in to tyranny. It has been proven in the world that tyranny is not viable in the long term. Let us never label each other over any small matter. This is antirevolution; anti-velayat, I do not know what. We must not say such things. It is a pity to misuse these powers. [passage omitted] If we fail to keep the fraternal guardianship, this peace, this sincerity, then we stand to lose. If we think that, thank God, the problems have passed, we have crossed the finish line and now is the time to divide up the loot, by God we are mistaken. We must think about our enemy: the enemy of our religion, our revolution, the bloodthirsty enemy, the relentless enemy, the sworn enemy. Join hands! Ask God for help! Let us maintain our readiness, and have faith in God's promise as well. [passage omitted] The God who bestowed yesterday's victory on us and brought us from the depth of misery to the height of glory, is neither dead nor captured nor become powerless. The only condition is that just as you took one step forward and God gave you blessings, now we must take much stronger steps. [crowd chants God is great, Down with America].

Friday Prayers on Regional Issues

LD1805091691 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1354 GMT 17 May 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, clerical member of the Council of Guardians, in Qom on 17 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Currently the member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council could cooperate with a U.S.-initiated plan and take part in a peace conference and gradually increase their ties with Israel.

Very well, the first disgrace was initiated by Egypt, resulting in a boycott against it for a while, then others made peace with it, then they brought it back on the scene, and now it is initiating many plans, and one by one they are joining that country.

Fine, let those countries do what they want, we have no control over them. We have no influence on them. If they are asked to bombard the Ka'ba so as to save their rule, if they know that by bombarding Ka'ba they would save their rule, they would do what Saddam did to the holy shrines. Their case is beside the point and we leave them. We are concerned about people.

The Muslim people of the world should know that they are usurpers, that have committed huge crimes during the time of their usurpation. Many lives and resources and homes have been lost and they have committed crimes that no one knows but God himself. What everyone has found out is that these are great crimes. But the world should know that, and recognize the necessity for confrontation against those crimes and should know that any day they can drive them out of the occupied territories. They should do that and they should recognize it as their religious duty to help the Palestinian intifidah. [passage omitted]

Another issue is that of the hajj. Concerning this year's hajj, I do not know what the harsh Saudi Arabian policy is going to do to our pilgrims. What is certain is that if our pilgrims can, they should try not to remain silent and, in a collective way, or if they cannot, then one by one, two by two, four by four, hundred by hundred, thousand by thousand, as many as possible, get together and try to awaken their Muslim brothers.

One issue is the problem of the United States and the threat it poses against the region by its stranglehold on world oil and its domination of the southern region of the Gulf. These are issues which should not be ignored. The U.S. threat should be explained to the people so that they know what misery it will bring to the region. They support Israel, who wants to occupy from the Nile to the Euphrates. They should not think that if they come and make an agreement, then Israel would be content with what it has occupied. No, that is not true. They would swallow the world if they could, let alone the Islamic countries and the countries fighting against it.

The people must understand this and disavow the infidels and the United States. The people must expose the current massacre of the people in Iraq by the United States. The United States is showing the green light. It is helping the Saddamites to carry out the massacre in Iraq. There is nothing left in Iraq, nothing is secure or safe in Iraq. Are the holy shrines of the immaculate imams safe? They are destroying those places. Are the sources of emulation safe? Are the ulema, the seminary schools or the clerics safe? Are ordinary people in the streets and bazaars—ordinary men, women and children, young and old—safe? They are massacring innocent people. Just ask the Iraqi refugees.

Our mass media and organisations must expose their plight to the world. [passage omitted]

Iran has helped as much as it could. However, not enough has been done for propaganda purposes. A sit-in should be organized in front of the UN office in Iran involving hundreds of thousands of people saying: We will remain here until a UN delegation, accompanied by a few of us—a few people from Iran—visits Iraq so that we could show them the calamity that the people are going through. Let the refugees accompany them to expose the massacre. Why did they issue so many resolutions concerning Kuwait? To safeguard U.S. interests, they came to the region and showed force, they came with 28 other countries and drove Iraq out of Kuwait. Now that the Muslims of Iraq are under pressure, it is as though they are dead! This issue concerns Islam. If they are keeping silent, then the Muslims must move. [passage omitted]

The current situation in Iraq is as important to us as it was during the eight years of war. Islam was in danger then, Islam is in danger now; Saddam was the enemy then, Saddam is the enemy now; Iraq was defended by blasphemy; today too, blasphemy supports Iraq. We have to do our duty. [passage omitted]

Naval Forces Launch Second Phase of Maneuvers

LD1805123591 Tehran IRNA in English 1131 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—Iranian naval forces launched the second phase of the 'Piroozi-2' (victory) war games off Iran's southern coast in Persian Gulf waters Saturday, targeting from air and sea, positions of the hypothetical enemy.

Naval units, backed by air force fighters and helicopter gunships also carried out amphibious landing operations.

Navy Commander Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani personally directed the second phase of the war games from a base in southern Iran.

The six-stage Piroozi-2 maneuvers, in progress over an 18,000 square km area in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, are designed to improve the combat prowess of Iranian naval forces.

President Cited on Palestine Liberation

LD1805155391 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today described the trend of the intefadah in occupied Palestine as "very encouraging and a right way to liberate" the Zionist usurped Muslim land.

"Islamic circles and those seriously advocating the liberation of Palestine are worried by Washington's latest move in connection with the Palestinian issue," Rafsanjani told a group of visiting Palestinian writers, poets and artists.

"The goal of my visit to Damascus was to keep alive the issue of Palestine," the president told the visitors who are in Tehran for the 4th International Book Fair which ended Friday.

"It is a mistake to think that the Zionists will be satisfied with what they have obtained (by force) or may give some concessions to Muslims and Palestinians. If they give some superficial concession under pressure it will certainly be a prelude to their further expansionism," he warned.

What has so far happened in Palestine, said Rafsanjani, "has come mostly from the oppressed and deprived strata and God-loving youths who have sacrificed their lives, and not from politicians who have exploited such great human potential."

He said the Iranian people will never forget the issue of Palestine and maintained "God willing some day we all witness the flag of Islam and Palestine flying above al-'Aqsa mosque (al-Quds)."

The Palestinian guests lauded the Islamic Republic for its attention to the Palestinian issue, rejection of compromising policies and strengthening of the Palestinian struggle through Jihad (holy struggle).

President Receives Pakistani Muslim Leader

LD1805164991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Allameh Sayyed Sajid Naqawi, leader of Pakistan's Shiites, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. He presented a report to the president about the situation facing shiites in Pakistan, and conveyed their great devotion to and affection for the Islamic revolution and the eminent leader [Khamene'i].

Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the importance of Muslim unity and solidarity, and stressed the need for greater cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the brother Muslim country of Pakistan in the political, cultural, and economic spheres.

Ministry Official Receives Afghan Alliance Leader

LD1805175691 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, head of the interim government of the Afghan seven-party alliance, and [Burhanuddin] Rabbani and Mowlavi Muhammad Nabi today met with Mr Borujerdi, Foreign Ministry deputy for Asia and Oceania. Mojadeddi expressed gratitude for the all-encompassing support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Islamic movement of Afghanistan, and said: It is necessary to use the political lever alongside military activities in order to resolve the Afghan problem. We hope that we will be able to achieve a comprehensive solution in the shortest possible time with the cooperation of Iran and Pakistan.

Mr Borujerdi reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the rightful demand of the Muslim people of Afghanistan to establish an independent, Islamic and nonaligned government, and stressed the need for all Afghan mujahidin groups to adopt a unified method and to use the political lever to resolve the Afghan problem.

FRG's Kohl Talks on Phone With President

LD1505201491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] German Chancellor Mr. Helmut Kohl this afternoon spoke by telephone with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He emphasized the need to expand cooperation between Iran and Germany.

Our country's president, while giving thanks for the relief supplies dispatched by some countries, complained about the insufficient international aid sent for the refugees. He said: Even though 40 days have passed since the problem of the refugees, very little international aid has been sent.

In the telephone conversation, the German chancellor thanked the president for the humanitarian measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in hosting and managing the affairs of the refugees, and stressed that speedy international aid should be sent in that regard.

Our president also stressed the necessity for the UN secretary general to take serious followup action toward implementing Resolutiion 598, in particular its sixth clause pertaining to the payment of reparations.

'Hostile' Stand Toward U.S. Advocated

NC1805104591 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Apr 91 pp 1, 16

[Mohammad Sarafraz commentary: "Hostile U.S. Stance"]

[Text] Why should we maintain our hostile stand toward the United States? We should do so because of the way the United States has acted not just toward Iran, but throughout the Middle East.

1. As far as the Palestinian problem is concerned, the United States is trying to legitimize the Israeli regime in the eyes of its neighbors. Ignoring UN resolutions, it is doing nothing to prevent the growth of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. It is very clear that the Zionist regime speaks from a position of strength it occupies as a result of its reliance on the United States. It opposes an "international" peace conference—which will not bear any results for the Arabs anyway—and says it will accept Soviet participation in such a conference only if relations between the two countries are normalized.

2. In Iraq the United States has acted suspiciously by establishing a safehaven in the north of the country, and there seems to be nothing to prevent the unlimited expansion of this area. The United States first encouraged the Iraqi Kurds to rise up against the Baghdad regime and then allowed Saddam to massacre them. And after about 3 million Kurds had been made homeless, it made a big fuss about having set up a few tents for a few hundred refugees!

Why does the Iraqi military have the right to attack the Kurds and the Shiites but not to fire at the Westerners who are deployed in Iraq? Why are camps being set up for the Kurds inside Iraq, when nothing is being done to enable them to return to their homes? Why should nothing be done for the Shiite refugees, when thousands of them were living in the areas under U.S. domination in southern Iraq and were fleeing en masse to the Islamic Republic? The U.S. policy toward the Iraqi people is completely suspect.

Instead of negotiating with political forces, the American military men deployed in Iraq are negotiating with the Ba'thist military men. This in itself is proof that their goal is a military takeover in Iraq. The expansion of occupied areas is aimed at gaining concessions from the regime while Saddam is still in power and, ultimately, at controlling developments after he is gone.

The United States is the Ba'thists' accomplice in the massacre of tens of thousands of Iraqis and the homelessness of millions more. It has done all this just because it does not want to lose control of the situation!

3. Mr. Bush's new world order means that problems will be solved through force, pressure, and deceit, but this will be done under the banner of the United Nations and with the cooperation of the powerful countries in a way that will not the leading role of the United States.

Naturally this policy will lead to regional crises.

American military men have become directly involved in the domestic affairs of Persian Gulf countries for the first time in their history. Moreover, America wants to have Egypt and Syria—neither of which are Persian Gulf countries—play an active role in the region.

This will lead to conflicts, crises, and, ultimately instability, a larger-scale version of Lebanon. Actually the new world order is the new world disorder of the post-cold-war era and will be used as the term "human rights" has been; that is, as a pretext to safeguard the interests of the United States and the West.

3. The United States has been unwilling to deal with Iran as Europe has done. Iran's assets have not been unfrozen. Nevertheless, the United States wants Iran to act unilaterally and to use its influence to secure the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon, when it was the Israeli regime and its mentors who resorted to hostage-taking in the first place and when there has been no definite information about the fate of the Iranian and the Lebanese hostages. A policy based on such inequality will not reduce hostility.

The hostile stand against the United States is the product of the U.S. stand toward all Muslims and the Islamic Revolution, and is not just the result of U.S. policy toward Iran.

Ties With West Outside U.S. Influence Needed

NC1705110091 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 12 May 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Idea of Iran-U.S. Ties"]

[Text] During the last few months the Islamic Republic has normalized ties with a number of countries that were formerly classified by it as hostile to the Islamic Revolution. Western nations have been at the heart of this renewing of ties.

Many of the countries with whom the Islamic Republic has resumed diplomatic relations and opened new chapters in its ties are allies of the United States. So a logical question to ask is: will the unravelling of events also end up in resumption of ties between Tehran and Washington?

If the remarks made by President Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Velayati are any indication, then the answer to the question is a definite no. The two architects of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy made it plenty clear last week that there is nothing in the making on the normalization of ties between the two countries. The responses by the two officials seem to have been very carefully made to put an end to public curiosity and speculation in this connection.

Addressing a seminar at Tehran University last Sunday, Rafsanjani said "Iran is not thinking about establishing ties with the U.S. and the U.S. is always trying to make the issue of establishing ties with Iran subject to conditions". When asked about the possibility of a breakthrough in the two countries' ties Velayati said at a joint news conference with visiting German Foreign Minister Genscher: "No, I do not foresee that".

Who is to blame for this stalemated state of affairs between the two countries? The Islamic Republic puts the blame on Washington and its snubbish attitude. America does not seem to want to change what the late Imam described as the "wolf to lamb" mentality. It wants concessions and flexibility from Iran in the face of its rigidity and unreasonableness.

The U.S. does not want to engage in any give-and-take situation with an open mind with Iran. It wants to dictate conditions, and humiliate Iran if possible. In short, it wants ties with Iran on its own terms. To these mentality Iran's response has been a categorical no and it most probably will not succumb to pressure.

A lot of people here argue that U.S. has been emboldened and its unreasonable demands heightened by the idea of its perceived victory over Iraq. Its supposed victory has made it impatient with any expression of difference with its schemes for the Persian Gulf region.

At the root of the problem between Iran and the U.S. lies the hostage crisis in Lebanon. Iranian officials have said time and again that they are willing to use their influence or whatever to secure the freedom of the Western hostages in Lebanon on the condition that the U.S. reciprocates the act with its allies—the Lebanese Phalangists, the South Lebanon Army and Israel to help free hundreds of Muslims detained by them. Washington refuses that and insists that the act should be unilateral.

The U.S. must understand that as far as the resolution of the Western hostage crisis is concerned Iran has got its own limitations and can do only so much. If the Islamic Republic gets too deeply involved in the Western hostage issue without any concern for the welfare of the Muslim hostages it might come under question both domestically and internationally by groups who are sympathetic and familiar with the precepts of the Islamic Revolution. The idea of having succumbed to the U.S. pressure at the cost of its own principles can have repercussions for the Islamic government and the country as a whole.

There was a time here in Iran when some people believed that the realization of normalized ties with the U.S. was the key to much of Iran's problems. Very few people, if any, now think along that line any longer.

The idea of resuming ties with Washington gets consideration in the Islamic Republic now not because America can help or that it can solve any of Iran's problems but because America has been so vindictive and goes out of its way to obstruct and disrupt roots of friendship between Iran and other countries.

When Foreign Minister Genscher says "it's in everyone's interest for them (Tehran and Washington) to come together," that is because he knows Washington would not stay indifferent and would step in to disrupt any long-run policy planning toward Iran. Just when things are about ready to translate into concrete action from exchange of delegation and compliments that is when the U.S. gets in between and begins sowing the seeds of inertia. And this is at the moment Iran's policy problem with allies of the United States.

Despite the Islamic Republic's desire to improve ties with all countries including the Western ones and despite its determination to move the country forward in its development plans, it does not seem that the U.S. can reestablish ties by merely relying on pressure or arms twisting tactics. More than just that is needed. And as far as the idea of having friendship with U.S. allies are concerned the Islamic Republic will have to try to find a way to deal with them independent of the U.S. influence.

Arab, Islamic Nations Urged To Confront West

NC1405164691 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 May 91 pp 1,11

[Editorial: "Another Act of Treachery Against Palestinian Aspirations"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The true face of many countries was exposed during the oil war, and now it is Kuwait's turn. For years, the al-Sabahs repeated anti-Israeli slogans and pretended to adopt progressive policies, but today the veils have been lifted and we see Palestinians being brutally beaten and tortured in Kuwait and the al-Sabahs inclining toward a compromise with Israel. [passage omitted]

Along these lines, the British news agency REUTER has reported that the Kuwaiti Government ended its boycott of Western companies which deal with Israel and is lobbying for all Arab countries in the Persian Gulf to follow suit.

It is possible that this REUTER report may not have much truth in it, as the British are notorious for such fabrications. There is another possibility, however, which is that this could be a "means of testing public opinion." Whatever the case, the Kuwaiti Government must clearly define its policy and remove any doubts. [passage omitted]

Many questions have arisen about the U.S. role in the liberation of Kuwait, but this role can be explained when we see how the U.S. war machine used Kuwaiti and Saudi funds to transform Iraq and Kuwait into a wilderness, bring back the al-Sabahs, and keep Saddam in power.

At the same time, the United States used the vast coffers of the al-Sabahs and the Al Sa'uds to meet Egyptian and Turkish demands and was able to extort from the shaykhs of the region things that otherwise would have taken it many long years to obtain. The important question here is how this affects the interests of the Arab world and the nations of the region.

Even if the al-Sabahs consider themselves indebted to the United States, why should they try to make other nations feel equally beholden and try to persuade them

to adopt a servile policy toward Israel? Even more to the point, why should any sense of obligation on the al-Sabahs' part prompt them to take a conciliatory approach toward Israel as "the least they can do to show their gratitude for the enormous favors granted by the United States"? [passage omitted]

If the Kuwaiti shaykh owes his restoration to power to the United States, how can he permit himself to end the boycott against countries which deal with Israel and call on others to follow suit? Has there been the slightest change in Israel's filthy nature?

This poses a great test for the Islamic and Arab world. Muslim nations and governments should rise up in every way possible and combat this state of affairs with their loudest and angriest cries. This situation paves the way for Israel to gain a foothold in the heart of the Arab and Islamic homelands, signals that any stigma attached to maintaining ties with Israel is being removed, and heralds the establishment of overt and covert ties with the usurpers of Palestine.

It is quite clear that the United States and Israel are trying to convince Kuwait and Saudi Arabia that they owe a great debt to Israel and to drag them to the negotiating table on this pretext. Shamir recently elaborated how much Israel did for the Saudis and Kuwaitis during the Persian Gulf war. It is obvious that they are seeking to capitalize on the impotence, weakness, and servility the Arabs demonstrated during the oil war, and the Arab and Islamic world must rise up to counteract such humiliation.

No one should consider the Islamic land of Palestine the spoils of the disgraceful war initiated by Saddam. The Islamic world and all honorable nations must combat the subservience of the region's reactionaries and domination by the United States and Israel. They should put an end to the unfortunate situation created by reactionary Arabs as a service to their mentors and a betrayal of the Islamic world.

Israeli Actions Regarding Lebanon Viewed

LD1905124691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 19 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The recent activities of the Zionist regime in southern Lebanon, its air attacks against that region, and its move in forcing four Palestinian strugglers into exile raise a number of possibilities. According to political sources in the Middle East, Israel makes its moves based on two interrelated issues. One is opposition to an increase in the Lebanese Government's power, and the other is the aftermath of current efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. [passage omitted]

It is clear that the obstinacy of that occupying regime weakens the chance of reaching any agreement to solve the Palestinian problem; that regime is only seeking the Arab government's unconditional submission and only favors the provision of limited autonomy to Palestinians residing on the eastern border and the Ghaza strip.

Under such conditions, there is no doubt that pressure is mounting on the Zionist regime, and in order to escape that situation and divert international attention from the Palestinian crisis, it may try to create a new crisis, for example in southern Lebanon.

Now some political experts believe that the Zionist regime—due to current conditions brought about by the Middle East crisis and also the significant political developments that have taken place in Lebanon—favors a new assault on southern Lebanon, to change the current equations to its own advantage.

The recent changes in its borders with Lebanon and the annexation of a vast area of southern Lebanon, the attacks on Lebanese resistance bases, and the strengthening of the Zionist agents in that country may all be a prelude to Israel's new assault on Lebanon.

The same experts believe even if an assault does not take place, the Zionist regime will still try to agitate in the region in order to relieve itself of mounting pressures and to deepen and expand the general crisis in the Middle East.

Hurd Remarks on Hostages Called 'Illogical'

NC1705085991 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 May 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Root of the Hostages' Issue Lies in Tel Aviv"]

[Text] In an illogical gesture, Douglas Hurd, the British foreign minister, stated on Friday that relations between Britain and the Islamic Republic "would remain stunted as long as Britons were held hostage in Lebanon". Hurd also spoke of Iran's "undoubted and potentially decisive influence" over the hostages' captors.

Hurd's speech follows, by only about a week, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks on the necessity of creating better relations between Iran and Britain, in a speech delivered at a gathering of students who are usually suspicious of ties with the West. From Tehran's point of view, then, Hurd's remarks were evaluated as quite unexpected.

During the past week Tehran was host to two high-ranking European officials: German Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and French Foreign Minister, Roland Dumas. And while there are German nationals among the hostages kept in captivity in Lebanon, Genscher did not set any prerequisites for his talks in Tehran. In fact both the French and the German foreign ministers stressed the significance of expanded ties between Europe and Iran.

Some political observers in Tehran are of the opinion that ties between Iran and Europe have always been affected by strained relations between Tehran and London, but they are confident that once the ties between Tehran and the Bonn-Paris axis has been strengthened, London will lose most of its impact in this connection. It is also believed that at the moment London, more than Tehran, is in need of friendly ties between the two capitals.

As for Hurd's remarks on Tehran's influence on the hostages' captors, it should be noted that Tehran has never denied its spiritual influence. But Hurd should not forget that Tehran's influence in southern Lebanon is no stronger than London's influence in Washington or in Tel Aviv which holds the key to the hostage problem. The Israelis should release unconditionally all the Lebanese and Palestinians they have abducted from Lebanese territory to pave the way for the release of the Western hostages.

What is of special significance, however, is that the hostage problem did not begin, and will not probably end, with the fate of the three Britons. It is a deeply-rooted problem for which a solution has to be found regardless of specific nationalities.

Government Urges Medical Staff To Return Home

LD1605201791 Tehran IRNA in English
1511 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—The government is to provide some facilities for Iranian medics and experts abroad concerning military service, employment, housing and a right to bring in their household appliances and cars, in order to persuade them to return home. This was announced during a meeting between Health Ministry officials and a group of 180 Germany-based Iranian doctors who are on a homecoming visit.

Addressing the doctors, Health Minister Dr. Reza Malekzadeh said "Our country is going through reconstruction and hence it is incumbent upon every freedom loving Muslim Iranian to help remove the difficulties."

He added that the number of medical colleges in Iran has increased from a mere nine before the victory of the Islamic revolution to 28 now, with a student strength of 30,000 and a 4,000 member academic staff.

Chairman of the Medical Science Academy Dr. Iraj Fazel told the homecoming Iranian medics: "This is your home and therefore you don't need an invitation. You can return to your country forever or temporarily whenever you desire so,".

Fazel, an-ex health minister added that "Those considering themselves Iranian and Muslim should cooperate with one another to solve the problems of their country and this certainly requires time, endeavour, devotion and self-sacrifice."

Dr. Maknoon, official in charge of a council for attraction of Iranian experts from abroad told the audience that the some of their demands which fall within the capacity of the Health Ministry have been met and some others were pending government approval. He also briefed the doctors on the steps so far taken by Iran towards the well-being of those Iranian experts willing to return home. Some 3,000 Iranian mecial practioners including specialists are living in Germany alone, and 10,000 more are scattered throughout Europe and America. In addition, 30,000 Iranian students are studying medicine abroad.

Minister Nuri, Kuwait's Alim Discuss Refugees

LD1505205491 Tehran IRNA in English
1615 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Abdollah Nuri received prominent Kuwaiti Alim Muhammad Baqir Muhri, and told him that the Kuwaiti Government is expected to facilitate the return home of Kuwaiti refugees in Iran.

Hoj. Nuri also said Iran will continue to provide facilities to the Kuwaiti refugees until their return home.

Hoj. Muhri in reply explained the difficulties faced by Kuwaiti refugees, and called for further efforts to facilitate their return home.

Nuri Rebuts 'Ugly' Criticism of Relief Efforts

LD1505092191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer] At a time when the nation and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have deployed all their resources to provide help to more than one million Iraqi refugees, and at a time when international efforts to solve the problems of refugees have failed to be serious despite repeated requests by the officials of the country, a number of Western media have resorted to spreading lies in a defensive reaction to confuse public opinion and to try to justify the lack of interest to the plight of Iraqi refugees on the part of those who were responsible for that situation. They publish lies saying that Iran does not distribute part of the aid given to refugees or that it is obstructing the dispatch of aid. In this regard, we have invited His Excellency Nuri, the honorable interior minister, to come to the news studio of Channel One Television to explain the extent of foreign aid to Iraqi refugees and the way the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have received and distributed the aid.

Excellency Nuri, welcome and thank you for coming here and giving your time to Channel One Television news section. As you know, during the past few days the Western media, especially European media, have published stories about the aid given to the Islamic Republic of Iran to distribute among refugees. These are all mendacious accounts and pure lies. Please tell us about the latest situation of the refugees 40 days have passed.

[Nuri] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I offer my greetings to you and all the dear viewers. Now 40 days have passed since that important event. We had days when more than 1,100,000 refugees were living in our country. Well, we had plenty of problems. But now I am here, I must say that the refugees presently inside the Islamic Republic of Iran, housed in 65 camps, number something like one million. That is, during the above-mentioned period, a number have been returned, have been repatriated. Of course there may be some among them who have not yet registered. In any case those in our camps show that kind of figure. Thank God we have been able to organize their situation a bit. I think the dear refugees are completely happy with the treatment by the Islamic Republic of Iran. That is the latest account I can give after 40 days.

[Announcer] Thank you. As to the news and reports which the foreign media have disseminated on help given to the Iraqi refugees, please tell us how extensive the foreign aid to Iraqi refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran has been, and whether the amount of help has been in line with the refugees' real needs.

[Nuri] Unfortunately, the needs are very high, while the help as a whole is meager. I don't know what lies at the root of propaganda being waged by the world media. We believe it was due to the fact that they saw the Islamic Republic of Iran as having a very open response to the refugees issue. It has said that anybody who wants to help in any way, by air, land, or sea, can do so. We have even said that anybody wishing to bring help directly to refugees can personally come. There are various groups from various countries who are working here. But since they have not been prepared and are not prepared to solve the problem of the refugees, they have no alternative but to smear somebody every day. If we had placed any difficulties in their way, like preventing any particular country from helping or refusing to permit its planes to land, they would definitely have said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was obstructionist. But the Islamic Republic of Iran was very open: It gave permission to their planes and resources to arrive in the country. However, they began to engage in that kind of propaganda because they were not prepared to help.

For example, I must say that the total aid at our disposal in terms of tonnage is something like 12,000 tonnes of cargo. That total tonnage includes 50,000 tents with accessories like blankets and other related things. Now, if we say that we have an average of one million to 1.1 million refugees in Iran, we need at least 200,000 tents to house them. Thus, foreign help is around 25 percent of total needs. As to foodstuffs, the total help during that period amounts to something like 5,000 to 6,000 tonnes. The per capita needs of each refugee in terms of food, soap, and other basics weighs 800 grams. Of course, real need is above one kilogram. Now compare the total tonnage of 5,000 to 6,000 tonnes in terms of per capita needs of all refugees; then you will see the help we received amounted to around 20 percent of total needs. There has been other help too, such as field hospitals and sanitary means and so on. I ask those who have no axe to grind to pay attention here. If the Islamic Republic of Iran had only accepted letting the refugees in and solving their management problems, then that would have represented a great deal of effort and would have been enough for us to do. But now we have taken on our shoulders the task of providing the shortfall between 25 percent and the 100 percent in tents and between 20 percent and 100 percent in food. Who is doing it? Who is managing the camps? Who is providing power, water, transportation, fuel, health care, and treatment, other services? We have had to bear high costs. [passage omitted]

It is ugly behavior to resort to such an ugly propaganda movement while the Islamic Republic of Iran has shown such lofty generosity. People and God are all happy; ask the refugees. It is ugly to ignore such a package of movement. Of course, we do not expect the media to behave differently. Of course at the end of my talk I must thank those who helped such as the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees], the Red Cross, FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization], and some countries like France, England, Pakistan, and the Netherlands. Their help was not bad, relatively speaking. [passage omitted]

Aqazadeh Returns From Pakistan With Agreement

NC1705084191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Iran and Pakistan have signed a memorandum of understanding under which Iran will export 2 million cubic feet of gas daily to Pakistan between 1995 and 2010. This was announced by Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh at Tehran airport upon his return from Pakistan last night.

He added: Under the memorandum of understanding, Iran will assist in the construction of a refinery which will have a capacity of 120,000 barrels per day at Port Qasim in Pakistan and will use this port as a free port once construction is completed. The petroleum minister added: Eighty percent of the cost of building the Port Qasim refinery will be met with international credits, while the remaining 20 percent will be provided by the Iranian and Pakistani Governments. Iran will pay 10 percent of its share in the form of oil.

Mr. Aqazadeh also discussed other aspects of the memorandum of understanding, such as the exchange of information on oil prospecting in Baluchistan and the training of Pakistani workers in Iran in the fields of gas injection and petroleum and storage technology.

Va'ezi, Italian Minister Discuss Drugs, Ties

NC1705081991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] During a meeting between Mr. Va'ezi, our deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, and Italian Interior Minister Vincenzo Scotti, it was agreed that the two countries will expand their cooperation in measures to combat international drug trafficking, including increasing their exchange of information.

The two sides also discussed the situation of their citizens in each other's countries and the need to create facilities for Iranian citizens in Italy. Mr. Va'ezi and the Italian minister held a second round of talks to discuss bilateral relations last night.

* Value of Trade With Italy Increasing

91AS0882G London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] During January of this year the Islamic Republic of Iran and Italy increased the value of their commercial exchanges to more than $320 million. Economic experts describe the continuous increase in commercial exchanges between Tehran and Rome as an indication of expanded economic relations between the two nations, and they believe that if present policies continue, by the end of the current year the value of commercial transactions between Italy and the Islamic Republic of Iran will exceed $3.5 billion.

These experts added that if the value of the commercial exchanges between Rome and Tehran should exceed $3.5 billion, there will be a greater possibility of reaching the goal of $13 billion in commercial exchanges during the Islamic Republic' Five-year Development Plan, a goal set previously by the Islamic regime's economic officials.

According to statistics published by the Italian Statistics Center, during January this country exported about 112 billion lires ($92 million) in various goods and materials to the Islamic Republic of Iran. A comparison of this figure with the value of Italy's exports to the Islamic Republic of Iran during January last year (1990) shows an increase of 44.5 percent. The aforementioned statistical publication also says that during January this year Italy bought about $228 million in goods—chiefly oil—from the Islamic Republic of Iran. A comparison of this figure with the value of Italy's imports from Tehran during January last year also shows an increase of 20 percent. The Italian statistical officials announced that during January this year this country bought significant quantities of crude oil as well as quantities of pistachios, carpets, dried fruits, tea and spices, natural plants, marble, hides, gut, wool, leather and several other traditional goods from Iran. While presenting general statistics on Italy's exports to Iran, these officials announced that during the period under discussion this country exported to Iran various consumer, industrial and semi-industrial goods to Iran such as textiles, paper and stationery, industrial machinery and spare parts, manufactured implements for the oil and petrochemical industries, drugs, products related to steel foundries, industrial and shipping machinery, various vehicle spare parts, construction materials, motorbikes and bicycles, aircraft parts, food, electrictal and electronic products, chemical fertilizer and other goods, materials and similar items.

An Italian petroleum official announced that oil accounted for 95 percent ($218 million) of the total value of the goods this nation purchased from Iran during January this year—which came to more than $228 million. The remainder, about $10 million, went for other Iranian industrial goods.

UN Official Cited on 'Very Positive' Talks

LD1505181891 Tehran IRNA in English 1249 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 15 IRNA—United Nations Under Secretary-General for Public Information Therese Paquet-Sevigny today promised to help materialize to a "possible level" the expectations of the Iranian officials from the United Nations.

Mrs. Sevigny speaking to IRNA before her departure termed her talks with Iranian officials "very positive and constructive" and said the dispatch of some Iranian journalists to the United Nations to become familiar with the U.N. Communications Department was also discussed.

She added that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has also made arrangements to train reporters from 15 countries including Iran.

Sevigny who came to Iran to acquaint herself with the Iranian mass media, said in her opinion the press in the Islamic republic gives "good coverage" to major international issues including peace, security, disarmament, apartheid and the decolonizations process in world countries.

"A country cannot develop unless its media expands and grows," she said, calling on world leaders, particularly those of the Third World, to give more priority to their media and put more facilities at the disposal of the reporters.

Islamic Guidance Minister Leaves for Sudan

LD1505170191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance Khatami, heading a cultural, publicity, and political delegation, left for Sudan this morning on a three-day official visit. The Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance, in an interview with our reporter before leaving Tehran,

described the objective of the visit as the expansion of cultural and political cooperation, strengthening of friendly ties, and talks on issues of interest to the two countries. He added that agreements reached during the Sudanese president's visit to Iran will be followed up during the visit.

Referring to the need for Islamic states' close ties and the expansion of mutual cooperation, he said: Because of the strong presence of Islam in Sudan, we are keen to expand our relations with that country and at the moment the cultural representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sudan is working there.

Mines Minister Meets With Soviet Ambassador

LD1505132891 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Issues of mutual interest between Iran and the Soviet Union were discussed in a meeting of Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi and Soviet Ambassador here Vladimir V. Gudev here Tuesday.

The Soviet side voiced interest in the supply of wood needed by Iran's mines and promised to remove the obstacles in the way of mutual cooperation in the fields of mines and metals.

Mahlujchi stressed that Tehran-Moscow cooperation especially expansion of the Esfahan steel mill depended on the Soviet's fulfillment of its undertaking regarding supply of the needed wood by Iranian mines.

He added that Iran is ready to purchase up to one million tons of iron ore from the Soviet Union.

He also called on the Soviet party to speed up fulfilment of its undertakings regarding the establishment of an office to follow up mineral and metal cooperation.

The two sides also agreed to solve problems in the way of the visits of experts from both the countries.

Gudev called for expansion of cooperation in various fields, including melting and production of copper and titanium.

Yazdi Returns From African Visit

LD1905122391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 May 91

[Excerpts] The head of the judiciary, Mr. Yazdi, who travelled to Africa for talks with political and judicial officials of Nigeria, Senegal, and Kenya, returned to Tehran today. On his arrival in Tehran, the head of the judiciary said in an interview with our correspondent:

[Begin Yazdi recording] There were meetings with officials of the judiciary. I became familiar with the ruling [judicial] system in that country. One can say that on the whole, it is a French and British system, with certain differences. The interesting point for us was that usually, those officials agreed that the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is particularly independent and strong. [passage omitted]

In Nigeria, we finalized the agreement that was formulated during Mr Bello's visit here. Some parts of it are useful for bringing our work closer.

On the whole, I believe that those meetings were very useful with regard to political, judicial and religious issues. [passage omitted] [end recording]

* Assistance To Build Refinery in Pakistan

91AS0882D London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran will help the government of Pakistan build an oil refinery in Karachi. In addition to procuring some of Pakistan's need for petroleum products, the refinery in question, to be built near the city of Karachi, will enable this country to export some of the products from this refinery. The Islamic Republic of Iran will provide the oil needed for refining at this refinery, and Iranian engineers and technicians will cooperate with Pakistani experts to put the technical facilities at this refinery into operation. According to an Islamabad newspaper, in the middle of this month of Ordibehesht [21 April - 21 May] an Iranian delegation composed of Ministry of Petroleum experts from the Islamic Republic will visit Pakistan to make preparations for building the oil refinery. Quoting Pakistan's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Chaudhry Nasir 'Ali [Khan], this newspaper writes that in addition to participating in the construction of an oil refinery in Karachi, the Islamic Republic of Iran will help that nation's oil officials with technical training and research. Pakistan's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources also announced that Islamabad intends to build another refinery in the city of Multan in cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Oil Company. This official noted that the World Bank will assist Pakistan financially in the construction of this refinery.

Camp in Lorestan Ready for 10,000 Refugees

LD1605094391 Tehran in English to Europe 1830 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] The Assistance Headquarters for the Lorestan Province has completed the construction of Salman Parsi Camp in Bijar. The camp is now ready for accepting more than 10,000 Iraqi refugees.

Lorestan's deputy governor general for political and security affairs said this morning that the aforementioned camp has been constructed in accordance with international standards extending over an area of 10 hectares. He said the camp was equipped with water and electricity installations, sanitation and health facilities, as well as other services needed by the refugees.

DPRK Official Visits for Friendship Week

Meets With Borujerdi

LD1805122591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Mr. Paek In-chon, vice-chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] and the head of the Iran-North Korea Parliamentary Friendship Group, who is in Tehran on an official visit for the two countries' friendship week, this morning met and conferred with Mr. Borujerdi, deputy foreign affairs minister in charge of Asia-Oceania affairs.

In the meeting, the vice-chairman of the DPRK Supreme Assembly expressed his satisfaction at the existing very good relations between the two countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and North Korea and called for the expansion of cooperation. He also referred to the long-standing and strong enthusiasm of the people of North Korea for unity with South Korea, and termed the extensive presence of the U.S. forces, together with nuclear missiles in South Korea, as a serious threat against the Korean peninsula's peace and security.

In that meeting Mr. Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign affairs minister in charge of Asian-Oceania affairs, referred to the situation in the Persian Gulf region and said the presence of America in the region is due to the wrong policies of Iraq in the region and also due to America's conspiracies against the Islamic revolution.

Expressing the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the two Koreas' unity, he called for the further expansion of the two countries' cooperation at an international level.

Meets Friendship Group Leaders

LD1805193291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] The vice-chairman of the DPRK's Supreme Assembly and the Korean head of the Iran-North Korean parliamentary friendship group, who is in Iran on a visit, today met his Iranian counterpart and several deputies who are members of the Iran-North Korean parliamentary friendship group. He described the establishment of the friendship groups in the Iranian and North Korean parliaments as a suitable framework for the supervision and guidance of the two countries' relations, and he called for the unity of the two Koreas in the shortest possible time.

The Iranian head of the Iran-North Korean parliamentary friendship group expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries in various fields would expand further. He also condemned the military presence of the United States on the Korean peninsula and looked forward to the rapid realization of the Korean people's wish for unity.

Confers With Bayat

LD1905162291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Mr. Paek In-chon, vice-president of the Supreme Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] and head of the Iran-North Korean Parliamentary Friendship group, this morning met and conferred with Mr. Bayat, deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles.

At this meeting, which was also attended by the deputy head of the Iran-North Korean Friendship Group, Mr. Paek In-chon expressed delight at the progress made in the reconstruction of the country through the efforts of the nation and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He emphasized the continuity of bilateral relations and termed the recent trip taken by Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Majles, to North Korea as a successful and important trip in the history of the two country's relations. Then the deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles welcomed the visitors and referred to the good cooperation between the countries in the past decade. He said that the continuation of these relations guarantees mutual interests and benefits.

President Chairs Quake Aid Review Session

LD1505210491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning chaired a meeting to review the progress in reconstructing the country's quake-hit areas. The minister of interior, governors-general of Zanjan and Gilan, the president of the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation, the governor of the Islamic Republic of Iran Central Bank, and the president of the Plan and Budget Organization were present at the meeting.

At the meeting the governors-general of Gilan and Zanjan presented progress reports on the reconstruction of housing units, infrastructures, industries, and the services sectors. Later, the Central Bank Governor submitted a report on the provision of banking facilities to the quake victims. He said so far 6.4 billion rials in loans have been extended to quake victims.

The president of the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation also told the meeting that so far 216,000 files have been set up to help the quake victims. He added that 60,000 quake victims have been introduced to banks and that large quantities of building materials have been imported into the region.

Calling the trend of reconstructing the quake-hit areas positive, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the people for their efforts in the region, especially the civil servants and the provincial officials. He said: Thank God the Ministry of Interior made serious efforts. We shall follow up the reconstruction effort according to the plan.

At the end of the meeting, the president of the Republic issued instructions on the loan ceiling and the removal of foreign exchange hurdles to the Central Bank Governor and the president of the Plan and Budget Organization.

First Hajj Flight To Leave 27 May

LD1505084991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0245 GMT 15 May 91

[From the "Hello, Good Morning" program]

[Text] With the blessing of God, today the first flight to Mecca will take place for this year's hajj; the pilgrimage management staff will be flying from Mehrabad airport to holy Mecca with their equipment to prepare tor look after the respected pilgrims of the Holy House of God.

The first hajj flight will take place this year on 6 Khordad [27 May].

Commentary Discusses Economic Plans

NC1605093191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0350 GMT 16 May 91

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. This week our Central Bank governor pointed to Iran's special political, economic, and international success and said that these successes grant us the opportunity to take a new leap in putting economic programs in order.

One of the government's new policies is to allow the private sector to participate in many of the country's economic plans. The government wants the people to have an extended presence in economic activities so that it can extend special facilities to protect them.

As part of the Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development, the government plans to hand over government units to the private sector, to activate the private sector in foreign trade, to determine new foreign currency policies to evaluate the actual foreign exchange rates, and to gradually eliminate direct subsidies.

In discussing last year's economic development, we should say that conditions were created in the country to eliminate hoarding and that not everyone wants to turn his money into products. The gross national product has increased, and since 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989] there has been an increase in the gross domestic product. Even in 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990], we witnessed an increase in per capita income because of a higher growth in production than in population.

The government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani believes the country's main problem lies in production. What that means is that if production is increased, the vestiges of past bad policies such as unemployment, inflation, and liquidity will also be eliminated. Therefore, the Five-Year Plan has tried to identify and remove the obstacles facing producers for a favorable economic balance to be achieved. According to economic experts, a logical economic balance can be achieved when the government's oil incomes are used for development and when the government's non-oil incomes are used for running costs.

If the people's welfare depends on the price of oil and world economic conditions, when there is a reduction in oil prices many activities will remain dormant. This is why some of the oil-producing countries have reduced the role oil plays as a source for foreign exchange income and have increased the role played by non-oil exports. Dependence on oil brings only temporary welfare. If we are seeking long-term and guaranteed welfare, we should see to it that the production units are able to meet their needs and those of society from their own activities.

In the past, because of the imposed war, the government had to adopt an economic stabilization policy. This policy led to an increase in liquidity, a budget deficit, increased inflation, reduction in the people's purchasing power, and a decrease in production. The people's purchasing power is increasing every day now with the implementation of the policies for economic balance and now that we are determining prices on a supply-and-demand basis. Production units have started to become profit-making units.

Another point which should be discussed here is the government position on subsidies. In regulating the complex policies for economic balance the government has paid more attention to the situation of the vulnerable strata and has adopted a policy of gradual elimination of subsidies, not because it is better to do so but because this will allow the people's income to gradually increase. Therefore, it should be said that as long as the income of the vulnerable masses does not allow them to supply their needs without rationing, government protection and the subsidizing of rationed goods will continue. As far as the free offer of rationed goods is concerned, in view of the successful experience of offering gas, washing powder, and milk without subsidies, we can hope that the continuation of this policy on items such as chicken and eggs will be useful and that the prices of these items will be reduced to half their current prices.

It is hoped that with the government's efforts to supply goods for the public at favorable prices and to protect the vulnerable masses, as well as its efforts to subsidize production during the first Five-Year Plan for economic and social development, we will see our country's economy flourish.

Oil Slick Threatens Bandar-e 'Abbas Area

LD1905150491 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas (Hormozgan), May 19, IRNA—An oil slick drifting in Persian Gulf waters from damaged Kuwaiti oil wells is posing a serious threat to steam

power generators and desalination plants in this southern port-city, according to a reliable source here today.

"Since the generator uses sea water for its cooling system, it has to be switched off if the 30-km-long, 2-km-wide slick which has broken into several patches, enters the pools" the source told IRNA.

He said booms have been installed at the mouth of the pools to keep away the drifting patches of oil, which presently lie 3 km away from Bandar-e 'Abbas, with winds blowing in the direction of the port-city.

The port and shipping organization has rushed two (?machines for) cleansing pollutants, in case the patches enter the [word indistinct] and Bahonar [as received] jetties of Bandar-e 'Abbas port.

Defense Industries Launch Second Naval Craft

LD1505093691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] The second small naval craft built by the Defense Industries was launched on the waters of Port Anzali yesterday. According to a report by IRNA, parts of the said boat, which has a length of 20 meters, have been assembled on water.

It must be said that the first 50-ton naval craft of the Defense Industries was launched in mid-Azar [late November 1990] of last year at Port Anzali.

* Offices Purged of Mohtashemi's Supporters

91AS0882C London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] With rumors afloat about the Majles being dissolved by order of Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic government, last week, continuing its changes of municipal appointees, the Ministry of the Interior appointed eight new governors for various cities, including the city of Shiraz.

Since he succeeded 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi as minister of the interior, Sheykh Mohammad Nuri has gradually dismissed all the governors appointed by Mohtashemi so that the next elections of the Majles will be secure from disruption and influence by Mohtashemi's appointees.

After becoming minister of the interior in the government of Seyyed Hoseyn Musavi, Sheykh 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi appointed a large number of his agents and friends as governors and governors-general.

* Commanders of Tehran Security Zones Designated

91AS0893A London KEYHAN in Persian 2 May 91 p 1

[Text] Last week, four committee officials and three police and gendarmerie generals were designated as commanders of the seven security zones of Tehran. They were:

1. Mas'ud Kiyumarsi (from the revolution committee), as commander of the northern Tehran security zone.

2. Hoseyn Moqarrebi (from the revolution committee), as commander of the northeast Tehran security zone.

3. 'Alireza Taheri (from the revolution committee), as commander of the central security zone.

4. Hoseyn Dadpur (from the revolution committee), as commander of the Shahr-e Rey security zone.

5. Brigadier General Hoseyn 'Ali Kiyani, as commander of the western Tehran security zone.

6. Brigadier General Rahim Golzari, as commander of the Shemiranat Tehran security zone.

7. Brigadier General Morteza 'Abdolkarimi, as commander of the southern Tehran security zone.

Meanwhile, Brigadier General Mansur Mahtash was appointed as acting commander of the Tehran security zone, Brigadier General Hasan Shah'ili as deputy security commander, Mohammad Mehdi Akbarzadeh (from the committee) as deputy commander for criminal investigation and battle against social corruption, Karim Mallah (from the committee) as deputy commander for coordination, and Jalal ol-din Sa'idi (from the committee) as deputy commander for information and operations. Bahman [February 11].

Cabinet Approves Bills on Armed Forces, Doctors

LD1905193991 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] In today's cabinet meeting, after a review of important events of the country and regional issues, the reports of the cabinet committees on the proposals advanced by executive departments were discussed and some of the following proposals were approved: the bill on the punishment of armed forces' personnel for any offence they may commit; the bill concerning the payment of conscripts; doctors compensation for being deprived of opening their own offices passed on 22 Shahrivar, 1366 [13 Sep 1987]; the bill concerning the conscription of medical college graduates; the law on the conscription of doctors and paramedics; and the bill on the Islamic Republic of Iran joining the regional convention for assessing higher education qualifications and grades in Asia and Oceania.

Majles Deputies Approve Campaign Guidelines

LD1905132491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] In today's open Majles session, the draft bill for appending a single article to the Election Law was approved. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] In this morning's open session, the Majles stipulated how campaigns should be carried out by election candidates. According to the draft bill for appending an article to the Election Law—which was approved by the deputies in this morning's Majles session, with Mr. Hashemiyan presiding—the use of any kind of placard, sign, wall inscription, campaign car, or the use of mobile loudspeakers other than in speech venues, with the exception of the use of photographs in a maximum of two forms in pamphlets, speeches, and question-and-answer sessions, is banned for candidates in elections for the Majles, the Assembly of Experts, the Presidency and Islamic Councils, and for their supporters.

According to the draft bill, a dignitary is allowed to announce his views in favor of a candidate only when it is given without any reference to his position or responsibility and when a written document pertaining to his signature has been submitted to the election supervisory committee.

Khamene'i Said Suffering From Colon Cancer

TA1705145591 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] It is being said in Tehran that Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i was operated on because he is suffering from cancer of the colon and that, contrary to the Islamic Republic regime's propaganda, his condition is not satisfactory.

Clandestine Reports Explosions, Clash in Sardasht

NC1705112891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] According to reports from the party's committee in Sardasht, a loud explosion was heard on Saturday, 4 May, at the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps base in the town of Niaveh, which is located between Sardasht and Piranshahr. The force of the explosion shattered all windows in the town and caused a student to faint. The cause of the explosion is not yet known.

According to the latest report from the party's committee in Sardasht, three people were wounded and a vehicle was destroyed during an armed clash between mercenaries from the Ramazan headquarters and the repressive forces of the Madineh-Monawwareh brigade near the village of Alvatan in Sardasht on 7 May. The clash was reportedly the result of a difference of opinion on the setting up of a checkpoint on the (Jawzeh) heights.

Possibility of Iraqi-Kurdish Rapprochement

NC1205131391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 11 May 91

[Unattributed commentary: "On Talks Between the Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Movement"]

[Excerpts] Two months of unrest in Iraqi Kurdistan have unfortunately resulted in losses; destruction; and a vast segment of Kurdistan's population becoming homeless, with 3 million Kurds roaming from pillar to post. According to reports, talks to resolve this dispute amicably and to vindicate the Kurdish people and restore their rights have been initiated between representatives of the Kurdish movements and the Iraqi Government.

Nearly three weeks ago, following the establishment of links and contacts between the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish front, a representative delegation of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front went to Baghdad. It held talks with a high-level government delegation about a solution to the Kurdish issue and the liberation of Iraq from its situation in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war.

The Kurdistan representative delegation held talks with the Iraqi president. News agency reports indicate that the talks took place in an atmosphere of understanding, and the president personally displayed a willingness to resolve the Kurdish dispute. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, war and clashes between the Kurdish peshmerga forces and the Iraqi Government forces have been halted and humanitarian assistance is regularly reaching the calamity-stricken people. Snow and rain have stopped falling, and weather in the mountainous areas has gradually warmed, and thus fewer refugees have died.

However, if the trend has been positive and a source of satisfaction so far, undoubtedly the commencement of talks between the Iraqi Kurdistan movement and the Iraqi Government is even more positive and is a source of immense satisfaction. The talks are dazzling in reflecting something gained out of the developments and upheavals of the past few weeks.

Even though efforts to get humanitarian aid to the disaster-stricken Kurds merit gratitude and appreciation, they are still only temporary measures and cannot end the trials and tribulations the Kurds have endured the past few centuries. It is even possible that in the long term they may even bring greater hardships and misfortune to the Kurds.

In any case, the recent constructive talks based on goodwill between the representatives of the Kurdistan movement and the Iraqi Government to resolve the problems of Kurdistan will be able to end the long suffering and ordeals of the Kurds once and for all, and thus render a great service to Iraq's national unity.

A compromise between the Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan movement will have positive repercussions on the national, democratic movement of the Kurdish

people in the other parts of Kurdistan. In any case, Iraqi Kurdistan can be a model for the solution to the Kurdish issue in neighboring countries. If the governments ruling over Kurdistan were to relinquish their chauvinistic policies with regard to the Kurds, then resolving the Kurdish issue can become a firm basis for permanent peace in all of the Middle Eastern region.

Now that the efforts to resolve the Kurdish problem in Iraq are moving on the right and principled path, we hope this trend will continue until success and a decisive agreement are obtained. We also hope that attempts by the opponents of an amicable solution to the Kurdish issue will not create impediments along this path.

In this regard, both sides involved in peace talks should exercise extreme vigilance against the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which wishes to foment disturbances and discord and has embarked on neutralizing these cordial efforts with all its might and in every way possible. [passage omitted]